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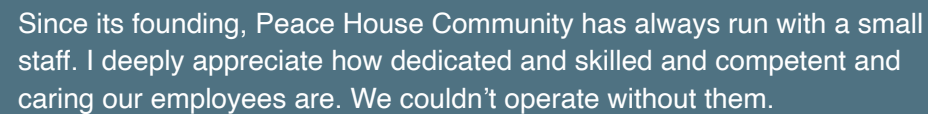
FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER

Mission:

Peace House Community (PHC) nourishes its members' bodies and souls by providing a safe space for everyone. PHC enriches the lives of its members, volunteers and students by offering a place to belong for everyone who comes through its doors.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A PLACE AT THE TABLE!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



At the same time, having a small staff means we're stretched thin, and not everything gets done. We're good at prioritizing, but there are limits to how much any one person can do in a day.

I have often been asked how I manage to do my job with so many competing responsibilities. In my case, “Executive Director” means I am the Human Resources, Legal, Community Relations, Fundraising, Communications, and Finance departments, along with supervising staff and working with the Board of Directors to chart PHC’s future. When people ask how I get it all done, I reply that I’ve gotten good at focusing on priorities and ignoring the other stuff. This sometimes frustrates people when I can’t give enough attention to their concerns, but one of the sad realities of life at PHC is that we simply can’t do everything that is wanted or needed.

Having said that, I hope that as a supporter of PHC, you never feel ignored. PHC is in it's fifth decade because people like you sacrificed for our mission and for the community members who rely on PHC. I cannot say too loudly or too often how much I value each gift that PHC's receives. We can't do everything, but because of you we can do a lot for our community members.

So, to make sure you hear me say it, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank
you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank
you, thank you, **thank you** ...

Marti Matthey

At Peace House Community, we believe every person deserves a seat at the table and a place to belong. Every day, we welcome our community members with compassionate support, nourishing meals, and the hope that comes from being seen, valued, and accepted. This year's gala theme, A Place at the Table, celebrates that vision.

At PHC, people can come just as they are—to share a meal, find conversation, express their creativity, laugh, build connections and, most importantly, belong. Together, we'll celebrate the power of community and the difference we can make when everyone has **A Place at the Table** and a place to belong.

We invite you to join us for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate the lives that have been transformed through the generosity, compassion, and support of our community.

The evening will feature:

- Inspiring stories and heartfelt testimonials
- Special appearances by local celebrities
- Delicious food
- Exciting silent and live auctions
- Meaningful opportunities to connect, give, and make a lasting difference

Please join us on Thursday, October 29, at the Heritage Center of Brooklyn Center. Purchase your tickets at peacehousecommunity.org or by scanning the QR code.



In Memoriam



Rezene Testatsion

Rezene Tesfatsion arrived in Minnesota from Ethiopia as a bright 17-year-old college student with great potential and a dark past. He spoke little about his academic achievements and less of experiences as a child soldier in his war-torn country. At Peace House Community, he was well-known for jokes that played off his mock vanity and supposed fierceness, but throughout the wider community he was well-loved for quiet generosity and joy in the successes of others.



Randip Satoskar, aka Rand

Randip “Rand” Satoskar was a brilliant hermit in the heart of the city. His tent, tucked in foliage under the Stone Arch Bridge, was very private, but Rand himself was quite visible, radiating a joyous appreciation of the arts and spiritual connection among all living things. When Minneapolis launched a series of interviews with familiar faces in downtown parks, Rand was the first person featured. Around PHC, he displayed enthusiasm for all sorts of esoteric subjects and for meditative hand dancing to music.



John Gries

John was a dedicated, longtime volunteer and former Board member whose commitment to Peace House Community left a lasting impact. He had a quiet way of putting people at ease, and his wisdom, kindness, and thoughtfulness earned the respect of everyone who had the privilege of knowing him.



Joe Banks

Joe was a volunteer at PHC for many years before his health declined. This part of his obituary beautifully summed up Joe’s life: “Joe leaves behind a legacy of music, art, faith, service and quiet joy - a life shaped by community, sustained by belief and shared generously.”

Pedal for Peace



On September 15, a group of community members, supporters, volunteers, and staff left the Peace House Community building for a 10 mile bike ride around Lake of the Isles and Bde Maka Ska. We had perfect weather and enjoyed a great time of fellowship and fresh air during the ride. A delicious BBQ lunch was waiting for the riders when they got back to Peace House. The ride raised \$7,000 for PHC. With the lessons we learned this year, we hope to put on an even bigger ride next year.

Upgrades That Make a Difference

Facilities are hardly the most exciting part of Peace House Community, but we wanted to let you know about a few upgrades that we have been making around the building to make sure we can have the most welcoming space for our community members.

First, we redid our coffee area and installed a commercial ice maker. Before now, there was no free source of ice during the summers for homeless folks, or for the outreach teams that took water and other supplies to them. The remodel also allowed us to install a larger microwave for the community. Next, we are upgrading our fencing and security cameras. These upgrades will make the property more secure and will ensure that the community members can enjoy a safe and well-maintained building.



Financial Update, Thanks to You

As of the end of August, PHC’s financial situation is looking stable, and these days, that can be quite an accomplishment for a nonprofit. But in this case, it is an accomplishment shared by all of our supporters, not just a small group trying to raise funds for us.

As the graph shows, we’ve received close to what we’ve spent so far this year (blue columns).

Like most nonprofits, we rely on the last quarter of the year for a huge chunk of our annual revenue. Based on our experience in past years, we are confident that our supporters will ensure we end the year at least breaking even, and hopefully with a surplus.

Thank you for making sure we can keep our doors open and the coffee warm for our community members!

