

A Journal of **HOPE**

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Everyday Hope

"If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all." —Martin Luther King

I think a lot about that word, hope—for obvious reasons. Like Martin Luther King, I have to believe that hope is something you live every day. It's not something you just wish for. Instead, hope lives in the center of our imagination about how things can be and how we act to make things happen. When hope is embedded in our daily lives, it keeps us moving.

The buildings at Hope Community communicate possibility to a neighborhood where there has been very little hope. And over the last several years, a community where people can imagine and act together has been growing through Hope's work. Hope's new headquarters, opened at the end of 2003, includes a community center that people stream in and out of six days a week. Hope staff, partners, and hundreds of people throughout the year from the community make important things happen. Kids, parents, adult learners, tenants, and community leaders come to classes, art and music projects, planning sessions, community meetings and gatherings. Dozens of partners add to our growing impact.

More than that, Hope staff and growing numbers of community leaders work to impact the broader neighborhood. They are working to bring critical resources into a park just two blocks from Hope. They go to community meetings about the future of this community and work with local businesses. They work to keep the neighborhood safe. In many ways Hope is becoming a neighborhood hub, challenging poverty, isolation and



Photo by Bruce Silcox

A mother and son who live at Hope gather with other families for a camp send-off in front of Hope's headquarters.

hopelessness. This newsletter gives a brief preview of 2010 at Hope Community.

Yet we are just beginning. This is still a very challenged community. There is so much more to do. We will be here into the future as so many act every day with hope and the layers of community build on each other.

Mary Keefe, executive director

impact 2010 & beyond

building the strength of this community

Here are the ways Hope is making a major impact in the community in 2010. Our work in numbers: almost 400 children, youth and adults living in healthy, rental homes and over 500 people across all ages, cultures and ethnicities involved in leadership, learning and community-building opportunities. The whole of this work is greater than the sum of its parts. We thank our many donors and partners for making this work possible. Because of you, this important work continues.



Hope Block tenants, Marzia Farooq and her son recently moved back into their renovated 3-bedroom apartment.

Investment reclaims the neighborhood



"Because we care about our neighborhood—we are involved with our neighbors and with the city as plans are made about the neighborhood."
—Will Delaney, Asset Manager at Hope

Families and individuals who now live in healthy, affordable housing will go on about their lives in the 173 rental homes managed by Hope—16 units in older homes will be freshly renovated. Working toward the future, we will continue to raise funding for additional housing at Hope and will participate with other organizations working to raise resources for all who need homes. We will continue to connect with local business organizations and work with others to plan the future of this community, and to keep the streets safe. We will also work with many partners to increase our impact. A major effort in 2010 will be another Hope Listening Project as we reach out further into the community to bring ideas, energy and more people into our work.

Young leaders make change in their community



People across all ages will make their presence felt throughout the year as they come with their enthusiasm to Hope programs and take leadership in the community. Shelly Martin, a young adult youth leader, says, "When I came to Hope we were taken seriously. We were taught important things and took on important responsibilities."

In 2010, trained youth leaders will work toward a better neighborhood park, while other young people—teens and young adults—will make music and murals that help build community, and tenants and neighbors will come together to improve their neighborhood.

This year, many youth will be immersed in a project focused on peacemaking. Hope was chosen to be the Southside host for the annual PeaceJam weekend conference for young leaders on April 24 and 25 at the University of Minnesota for young leaders. Hope is working with partners to develop volunteer service projects for PeaceJam youth leaders across South Minneapolis



Hope youth leader Shelly Martin leads a community dialogue with neighborhood youth at Hope Community.



All photos by Bruce Silcox

Hope Learning Center students receive Essential Skills certificates from the Hope Learning Center.

Adult Learning: New Opportunities, New Relationships



"My life changed in many ways, when I moved to Minnesota. I am from Somalia. I lived there before the war. I have seven children. When I came to Minnesota, I could not drive and I did not speak English very well. It changed everything when I went to Hope Learning Center." Fadumo Gurhan, Hope Learning Center student

Learning Center student

Six days a week, immigrant adults will learn critical skills to pursue their career and academic aspirations in the Hope Learning Center (HLC). The impact of HLC will continue to change lives as it did for these students. Kodjo learned how to look up finding an apartment in the newspaper. Kenya applied for a job at Walgreens and now works there. Shemiz is taking the nurse's exam for the first time.

New in 2010, the introduction of podcasts will enhance the Saturday Distance Learning program, and students in small conversation circles will examine community-related topics like the 2010 Census and neighborhood public safety. We celebrate the HLC's seventh year and thank our partners, the Minneapolis Public Schools and committed volunteers, for adding to this program's successes.

MISSION Hope Community is a catalyst for change, growth and safety. We are building a sustainable neighborhood model through community organization, active education, leadership and affordable housing development.

Children, Youth and Families Build Connections, Community Grows Stronger



Young children and their families will come to community literacy nights where kids learn as a community surrounds them. Adolescents will come to mentoring groups and defy negative stereotypes as they own their strengths and talents.

This summer, over 30 youth will learn leadership skills to prepare for a week of overnight camp. Their parents will come together to cook them breakfast for a camp-send off and honor their accomplishment. Through this work, we will learn about the challenges that parents face and how we can support them. In 2010, we will be connecting families to programs that will support parents as they navigate the school system and build relationships with teachers and school staff—a resource parents have voiced will make a real difference for them and their children.



A family celebrates together at a Hope Community youth performance.

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Return Service Requested

Monthly Gifts Assist Hope

Historically we receive more than half of our individual gifts at year end.

The challenge this presents is the difficulty with predicting our annual budget. A greater number of our supporters have made a commitment to monthly giving which assists us in projecting our budget more effectively. At the same time they have also discovered the convenience of scheduling a monthly gift.

Setting up a monthly gift it is easy:

You can call Susan Marschalk at 612-435-1823 and she will assist you with setting up a monthly gift through your checking account or credit card.

Access our website at: www.hope-community.org and click on – Donate Now. A new page will appear. Click on Sign Up Now and you will be taken to the Donation Central site which is a secure site. To make a monthly gift, click on either Pay by Check or Pay by Credit Card in the box to your right. This will create the option to make a recurring gift.

Please consider a monthly gift to Hope Community. It will assist us and could benefit you too.



Kids learn together in Hope Community's after-school technology program.

Photo taken by Bruce Silcox