



Clint Hewitt
Hope Community Board



LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY

“It goes without saying that everyone needs safe and healthy housing, but at Hope we say, ‘Buildings don’t make a community, people do.’

A few weeks ago as I was leaving a meeting at Hope’s offices, a young boy, perhaps four years old, running ahead of his parents, came skipping into the building as I opened the door.

He stopped, and with a huge smile, said to me, “Hi!” What ran through my mind was, He is what this is all about.”

CONTINUED, INSIDE LEFT



“Eleven years ago, after a bit of prodding, gentle nudging, and patience of a colleague at the University, I visited Hope Community. I had been involved in community activities before, but at Hope I started to see something different.

I've learned that one of the greatest challenges experienced by people in poverty is isolation. In everything they do—and in how they do it—Hope staff and community members challenge isolation. Community members are the heart of the action when needs are identified and solutions are formulated and implemented. People build new connections, relationships, capacities and visions. They learn and they teach. I've seen change happen in so many ways, some entirely unexpected.

I have seen the confidence of once struggling parents and older community members as they relate stories of overcoming hurdles and of becoming a contributor and even change agent in the lives of others.”

CONTINUED, BACK COVER

EVERY DAY AT HOPE people come together and create the future of their neighborhood.

Engaged People



Building Leaders One Mural at a Time

Hope's youth mural program develops artistic skills, beautifies the neighborhood, and fosters team-building. Sixteen murals since 2004. But it's much more than that.

At Hope, making murals is about identifying youth who want to be mentors, leaders and role models. Art pulls them in, learning how to step up and take the lead brings them back.

Hope is important to myself and to the community,” Jordan Hamilton, one of five lead mural artists says, “...because it provides a space to build leadership, develop skills and give back to the community.” Jordan was 15 when he arrived at Hope. Today he is 24.

“Eye See You” is the title of their latest mural. At the community unveiling,

Quality Housing



Bonita Watkins: In Motion

Bonita Watkins is a single mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She has lived at Hope for four years, and has been in the Phillips neighborhood since 1979. Bonita says, “In that time, I've seen transformation.”

PEOPLE LIKE GLENDA, JORDAN, AND BONITA don't see Hope as a program they go to, but as their place in the community.

Glenda Criss: A Neighbor and a Leader

“There are people who live here who really love this neighborhood and believe in what we can do here,” says Glenda Criss. “I’m one of them.”

Glenda is a long-time neighborhood resident and says that being a part of Hope has contributed to her growth in many different ways. She was first

connected as a student of the 12-week Micro-Entrepreneur Training which led to more trainings and workshops at Hope from Personal Empowerment to Organizing and Food Justice. She has become a leader at Hope and calls it a “privilege” to be part of building her community.

Glenda has many passions. Gardening with her three young granddaughters, Sadie, Christina, and Sophie is one of them. Working with people at Hope is another that she says, “allows me to be out there, say ‘hey’ to my neighbors and not be afraid.”

youth participants and lead artists spoke about the images and their favorite part of the mural process. Eduardo Morales, a first-year lead artist mentored by Jordan and a Roosevelt High School Senior said, “Because we’re good at different things, seeing people help each other in the process,” was his favorite part. Eva Maghanga, age 16, pointed to her image of faces with the word, “justice” below. She explained, “This mural is about what we see in our community and what we want to see.”



“My son’s proud of me, my grandkids look up to me as a good role model,” says Bonita. She completed Hope’s Personal Empowerment training last year and keeps healthy living a priority. She grew onions for the first time in Hope’s community garden and was a

member of Hope’s 6-month bike loan program. She was 15 years old when she last rode a bike.

It’s important for her to stay involved at Hope. “If I’m doing all this, it gives me a good sense of being a good neighbor. I like being part of the

community; I want to get my neighbors involved. If everyone gets involved and gets to know each other, we become part of a stronger community. And then we move on, and do other things, and grow.”

Strong and Healthy Community



Partnership

Over 35 partner organizations and institutions bring resources and connections, making it possible for us to reach 1,000+ people in programs annually.

35 partner organizations

1,000+ people



People Are the Future

Connecting people and opportunities. Over 500 kids and adults learn, lead, and build community.

500 kids and adults



Linda

A relational approach to building financial health. AccountAbility Minnesota's Tax Clinic at Hope served 600 people in 2013, resulting in a total of \$1 million in tax refunds.

Financial impact for 600



Michele & Haiting

A growing network of volunteers. Haiting is one of 50 college mentors who read with neighborhood children every Saturday.

100+ volunteers



Ray

Creating community and neighborhood ownership. Ray is 1 of 475 residents who call Hope home.

Homes for 475 residents



Leilani

Collaborative learning and action. Leilani is one of 100+ trained leaders effecting positive change in their communities.

100+ leaders trained



The Rose*

Filling the housing gap. Construction begins soon on 90 new rental homes! (The Rose is named after Rose Tilman, founder of the Peace House.)

90 new rental homes

*Developed in partnership with Aeon.

“The little boy who greeted me with his smile and “Hi!” reminded me of the importance of making and keeping our promises to his generation. Minneapolis-St. Paul and beyond will be vibrant and productive, in the future, if all of its citizens can enjoy pursuing their hopes and dreams in safe, supportive, and healthy communities.

Like me, you are a part of Hope's long-term vision of transformation, community building, and investment in people. However, there is still so much to do.

Together let's keep our promise for the future to that four-year-old boy, and his generation. Thank you for what you have done and for staying with us.”

Gratefully,

Clint Hewitt
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