

SUMMER 2007

A Journal of HOPE

Char Madigan, Hope's Founder, Reflects on 30 Years

by Char Madigan

Oh dear readers,

Accept this love letter and thanks letter that I must write you as I savor our 30 year story. Memories set my heart simultaneously soaring and sore from a mix of so much love, hope, community and from too much grief, despair, violence. Love stories, war stories: the stuff of all human life. All hearts soar and get sore.



I like to sum us up as a mix of miracles and mistakes (well, what wasn't working), and a mix of mystery and mastery. See, though we kept listening and changing what wasn't working, what people really needed was not a bag of

Bricks and mortar were not enough. We needed a community of leaders and learners to keep it safe.

groceries, 30 days shelter, free clothes and furniture. They needed their own space and to be able to buy their own groceries, clothes and furniture.

The miracle, strangely, was that drugs came. The block was not safe. We began buying up boarded places, fixing and renting them, affordably. Bricks and mortar were not enough. We needed a community of leaders and learners to keep it safe.

To me, "abundance hidden in plain sight" describes the major miracle of this place. The miracle is the power of

the human spirit, unleashed. Not some magical god swooping in, it's people sensing their own power and connection with each other: invisible energy, hidden in plain sight, transforming isolation and fear. Mystery and mastery.

Though a cast of hundreds of individuals roam my memory, most of all, I thank the Sisters of St. Joseph who took a chance on us in 1976, giving us the

credibility of their 150 years deep presence in our towns. Their spirit is in our bones: community, love, justice and "we can do it," mystery and mastery

The sisters would remind me, of course, it's the thousands of guests and tenants who have lived here, and the hundreds of workers and donors of goods, money, time, who comprise the community, who make the visions take shape. Their spirit in our bones is their contagious legacy of energy, hope and love

To me, getting the right mix of mystery and mastery has been key to Hope Community thriving.

Our name really sums it up. Hope and community, abundance hidden in plain sight. I bow down. Cry thanks.

Love, Char

SUMMER 2007

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.

VISION

Hope Community will be a nationally recognized model for urban community transformation in the areas of community engagement, neighborhood redevelopment and affordable housing.

The vision will be accomplished by partnering with other agencies, organizations and individuals:

to provide opportunities for youth and adults to build personal and collective power through community-based learning, leadership training, organizing, and community building;

to revitalize communities where current residents are not displaced, but are primary partners in building diverse, mixed-income neighborhoods;

to identify, develop and redevelop affordable housing and related public spaces that promote and nurture community relationships.

CORRECTION

Hope Community 2006 Annual Report Financials on page 13

The amount listed for **Total Liabilities** and **Net Assets** in the **Statement of Financial Position** is not correct. Both **Total Assets** and **Total Liabilities** and **Net Assets** should be \$7,468,547.



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Hope Community—



St. Joseph's House founded in 1977.



St. Joseph's workers go



Mari Lankford and Deanna Foster celebrate Hope's 20th Anniversary.

Past, Present, Future



Gathering in the kitchen.



Looking down the Hope Block.



Children's Village Center groundbreaking 2002.



Hope youth working on an art project.



National Night Out 1998.



Hope Learning Center students.



BEFORE The abandoned southwest corner of Franklin and Portland.



AFTER The Jourdain completed 2006.

Celebrating 30 Years and Building the Future

Inside this newsletter is a small photo gallery we selected from the thousands of pictures that document Hope Community's history. Our year will culminate in a Community Block Party where we can recognize the history, celebrate together and build on the energy for the future. Here are some Hope milestones represented the photos:

- St. Joseph's House (1977-1996) made possible by hundreds of donors and volunteers, offered shelter and hospitality to 10,000 women and children.
- In response to neighborhood challenges—illegal drug activity, unhealthy and abandoned housing—we began to dream about creating a safe and healthy community where families could thrive. In the mid-90s, our new name, Hope Community, reflected our growing vision.
- For a few years, on the block where the shelter began, we rehabbed and built houses, built playgrounds, a picnic pavilion, and indoor community space—the Hope Block. At the same time we investing in community building, programs for kids, and a Learning Center for adults. Our extensive Community Listening began.
- The vision that emerged on the Hope Block and what we heard when we listened in the community inspired the Franklin-Portland Gateway. In 200?? we began a partnership with Central Community Housing Trust to revitalize all four corners of the Franklin and Portland intersection on the north end of the Hope Block with 223 units of new housing and neighborhood commercial space.
- Hope's headquarters in a four-story building at the intersection opened in 2003, including 30 units of rental housing and a community center. The Jourdain, another four-story building was opened in late 2006, and The Wellstone will begin on the third corner this year. With our partner we work to complete the Gateway.
- In 2007 Hope owns and manages 126 units of rental housing (90 percent) affordable. Our commitment to the community is still strong, each year brings hundreds of youth and adults to Hope learning and leadership opportunities where they create their own community.

Most importantly, we move to the future with hope and energy. Led by the rich community surrounding Hope, we are committed to a safe and healthy neighborhood for everyone. We celebrate the start of the next 30 years.

—Mary Keefe, Executive Director



Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation Providing Support for Hope Community's 30th Anniversary

We are grateful for the generous funding and dedicated volunteers that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation is providing for Hope Community's 30th Anniversary. We are excited about the opportunities to work together this year and on future projects.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has a deep commitment to the Phillips neighborhood. For a number of years they have provided funding for innovative programming in this community as a reflection of their values around caring for



others and improving people's lives. As our downtown neighbor, Thrivent Financial continues to support projects that are revitalizing our community.

Please look for the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation

logo on our materials this year. It is an important indication of our relationship and reflects their commitment to our work and community. Thank you, Thrivent Financial!

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BUILDING HOPE—Past, Present and Future

HOPE COMMUNITY 30TH ANNIVERSARY BLOCK PARTY!

MARK THE DATE!
SATURDAY, SEPT 15 • 1 TO 4 P.M.

We're throwing a big party in the street to celebrate! There will be a variety of food and music from many cultures, games and tours of the community. Neighborhood youth who have been creating together will showcase their talent. Don't miss the energy that happens when Hope throws a party.

Questions?
Contact Susan Marschalk at 612-435-1823.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation helped make this event possible through funding and dedicated volunteers.



Hope mural, "Snapshots of the City"
and Chaka Mkali (staff).

