

SUMMER 2008

# *A Journal of* HOPE

## Hope Community in the Neighborhood

By Mary Keefe

In this newsletter we introduce you to some of the most important people at Hope Community—our regular volunteers. La’Kisha, pictured here with her daughters, recently returned to us as a volunteer in a youth program. She returned to us because as a young girl she often joined the St. Joseph’s House community for dinner. St. Joseph’s House was the shelter and hospitality house that began Hope Community.

La’Kisha remembers helping to prepare dinners at St. Joe’s. She says, “St. Joseph’s was there for me at a time when I didn’t have a lot of positive role models in my life. It was more than a place for me to go... it’s where I felt safe.” Today, as a volunteer for Hope Community, La’Kisha is fulfilling a promise she made to Sister Char, Hope’s founder—a promise to give back to the community.

People give back in so many ways at Hope. Youth and adults from the neighborhood surrounding Hope are involved in programs, parent opportunities, tenant gatherings, serving as tutors for youth, and much more. Others come from beyond this community, but understand the importance of the change and opportunity happening

here and so give of their time. Six days a week tutors help adult students learn English, for example. Others work with youth or come as groups to paint rooms or weed gardens.

**St. Joseph’s was there for me at a time when I didn’t have a lot of positive role models in my life.**

Several volunteers come from service programs like AmeriCorps VISTA and St. Joseph the Worker and make full-time, year-long commitments to Hope. Their contributions exceed our expectations and grow our resources.

As we remind our readers on the back page of this newsletter, we depend on the hundreds of individual donors, foundations, corporations, and partners that make this work possible every year. And volunteers are a very real part of Hope resources. In 2007,

Hope volunteers gave 8,373 hours of their time with a monetary value of \$165,002.

What’s happening at Hope Community is of critical importance far beyond the borders of this neighborhood. And with volunteers like La’Kisha, we continue to discover untapped opportunity and possibility in this community. Together we all make a commitment to the future.



Photo: Bruce Sileo

La’Kisha sits with her daughters Iman and Khadijah in front of St. Joseph’s House.

## 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.



### HOPE COMMUNITY, INC.

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Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404  
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Special thanks to **Triangle Park Creative** for their continued support.

# Building on Hope with Volunteer Engagement

FOR VOLUNTEER INFORMATION, contact Betsy Sohn, Organizer/Community Outreach at [bsohn@hope-community.org](mailto:bsohn@hope-community.org) or 612-435-1672



Photo: Bruce Silcox

### PABLO GARCIA

Pablo Garcia first became involved in Hope's rap program, "Art of MC-ing" for teens and young adults in 2006. When he heard about the chance to volunteer with Learning in Community, a community-based literacy program for kids ages 6-9, he stepped up. Pablo is working towards his GED at 22 years old. He says he looks forward to his time with the kids because "I had a hard time in school as a kid and after-school tutors helped me a lot. I wanted an opportunity to do that same kind of work."

### VERONICA WALKER

Veronica Walker, a tenant in a Hope building is part of a Community Planning Group. They meet regularly to organize and lead activities, celebrations and meetings bringing their neighbors together—building community. Here, Veronica speaks at the Volunteer Recognition dinner in May: "At Hope I am part of a community—making friends and having new experiences."



Photo: Bruce Silcox

# Summer's Happenings

## *Building the Neighborhood's Long-term Leadership*

Over 250 children, youth, individuals and families engage in leadership and learning opportunities which contribute to community renewal.

### Hope Learning Center

Adult Education Summer Classes are open for registration. Registration Tuesday only.

- Classes M–Th 8:30 am–12:30 pm and Sa 9 am–noon
- Computer Lab open T, W 1–3 pm

### Learning in Community (LIC)

Children ages 6–9 read and write with their parents and volunteers, and enjoy a community dinner together.

- The summer 6-week session, “Exploring” (began June 24), T 5:30–7:30 pm

### Urban Music

Older teens and young adults write, create and record rap music in the Hope recording studio (classes began June 16 and run for nine weeks).

- Production Classes, M 3–6 pm
- Art of MC-ing, T 4–6 pm
- Studio Time, T, W, Th 3–6 pm

### Power of Vision Mural Project (POV)

POV is Hope's neighborhood mural project for older teens and young adults. This summer we are partnering with Pillsbury United Communities-Waite House to paint two murals on Lake Street: Intermedia Arts and New York Produce Building.

### Youth in the City Summer Camp

- Summer Camp will send kids ages 9–15 to overnight camp for one week
- A five-week summer camp prep program began June 28

### Community Planning Group (CPG)

A seven-week workshop, “Explore Culture through Puppetry” with Open Eye Figure Theatre began June 12 and will culminate in a public summer performance (date TBA).

- CPG is open to Hope residents and meets Th 6–8:30 pm.

### SPEAC

Community organizing for older teens and young adults.

- Retreat, July 11–13
- Meets twice a month on W 4:30–6:30 pm (begins July 23)

### Upcoming Community Events

August 5 is National Night Out!

**TO LEARN MORE** about Hope Community's programs, contact **June Bouye, Director of Community Engagement** at **612-435-1680** or **[jbouye@hope-community.org](mailto:jbouye@hope-community.org)**.



### ASTOR GREEN

Born in Jamaica, raised in England and settled in Minnesota—we are lucky that Astor Green found his way to Hope Community. For four years, every Saturday morning, Astor has volunteered as a Math and English tutor for adult learners at the Hope Learning Center. Astor reflects on what inspires him to volunteer, “I really enjoy creating new ways for students to understand and solve math problems on their own.” With a Ph.D. in Chemistry, Astor believes strongly that, “literacy is a foundation that everyone needs.”



Photo: Bruce Silcox

### FOLUKEY AKANNI

Five days a week, Folukey Akanni volunteers her time at Hope Community as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. She has made a full-time commitment to Hope for one year. A graduate of University of Minnesota, she explains what brought her to Hope, “Volunteering is the best way for me to learn and discover what I am good at.” Recently, she presented Hope's summer camp opportunity and five-week mentorship program to neighborhood youth at Project for Pride in Living. In response to what she likes most about her work, Folukey answers, “I like being in the community—it uplifts me.”



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# Building on Hope Fundraising Breakfast

Thursday, October 23, 2008 • 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.  
International Market Square

On Thursday, October 23, Hope Community will be hosting its first ever fundraiser at International Market Square. We are recruiting table hosts who are making a commitment to invite friends, co-workers and colleagues to this event to introduce people to Hope's work. Our goal is 400 guests—we know that together we can do this. Many supporters of Hope have agreed to participate as a table

host and have made a commitment to support the Building on Hope Fundraising Breakfast. We are calling on you to consider being a table host. You will be supported throughout the entire process and you will become part of Hope Community's history.

**Please call Susan Marschalk at 612-435-1823 for more information.**

The **Building on Hope Fundraising Breakfast** is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors:

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