

Hope Community

FALL UPDATE 2008

How You Make a Difference

Dear Friend:

Every day you make a difference!

At Hope the energy is high—126 units for low-income families are being cared for, recently 39 kids streamed off the bus after a week of overnight camp, new tenants will be moving into 49 apartment homes, we're preparing for fall youth programming to begin, a new documentary project is in the works and much more!

Because of you—our work continues to deepen and grow. Our sincerest appreciation, 'til our next newsletter in November!

— Hope Community

Six Mornings a Week, Hope Learning Center Students Are Arriving...

Six mornings a week people come to learn at the Hope Learning Center. Adult learning teachers from Minneapolis Public Schools and trained volunteers work with immigrant students to develop four core skill areas: reading, writing, math and English speaking. Many students have been drawn to the Essential Skills program which helps to prepare them for a GED and awards certificates that have been helpful when seeking employment. Other HLC programs include a small business training program, English Language Distance Learning and an online learning lab.



Photo: Bruce Sifox

Children! Books! Community!

It's Tuesday evening at the Children's Village Center and the community space is filled with kids reading to their mentors, taking photos of each other and getting lost in huge chairs with a book.

Learning in Community (LIC) is a community-building literacy program bringing children, siblings, parents and volunteers together to explore friendships and newfound curiosities through reading, writing and technology. A parent shares why her family is involved in LIC, "Literacy is more than reading. It's about learning together, creating, sharing and finding ways to get to where you are trying to get to."

The fall 9-week session, "Meeting New People and Making New Friends" continues this pilot program's success—where one child exclaimed, "I feel happy when I come here!"



Photo courtesy of Intermedia Arts

Emerging Leaders SPEAC-ing Out

Thirteen young leaders are beginning a months-long commitment to SPEAC (Sustainable Progress through Engaging Active Citizens). They will learn and act together in the Hope program that teaches leadership and community organizing. Former participants act as an Advisory Council to the group. Together they will continue community research and action related to park resources in this community. Watch for these young leaders in the future!

In the News

Build Bridges, Not Fences

“Murals,” Chaka Mkali, explains, “instill confidence and leadership abilities. They are also about using art as a vehicle for social change.” This summer, over 50 youth, many of whom were survivors of 2007 I-35W bridge collapse came together to complete two neighborhood murals, symbolic expressions of youth helping one another heal. Hope worked with long-time partners, Waite House and Intermedia Arts, on the projects.

The mural that runs across the outside gallery of Intermedia Arts uses hands of all colors to communicate “a human bridge of understanding and support.” Chaka said, “At the end of the day, it’s about creating a space where youth can discuss their innermost thoughts.”

Quotes taken from minnpost.com



Photo: Bruce Slicox

Solar panels on The Wellstone building

Against the Skyline a New Building Is Rising

The Wellstone

The Wellstone project brings life to the northeast corner of a long vacant, yet highly visible intersection just ten blocks from the Minneapolis downtown district. The 49-unit, four-story green building and Minnesota Green Communities award-winner is designed to illustrate and promote green and healthy features. It is the first affordable housing building (75% affordable for low-income families) to use solar thermal panels to deliver hot water to tenants. The Wellstone is a community vision—balconies, interior community spaces, and outside green spaces create a sense of community and beauty. The building is Phase III of the Franklin–Portland Gateway Project* and will be completed in December 2008.



Photo courtesy of Miles & Associates

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