

Summer Happenings

Hope Community Garden

Planting season has begun for the Hope Community Garden! Hope tenants—youth, adults and families—are tending a garden together.

Youth Opportunities: Leadership, Mentoring, Art and Organizing

Learning in Community—A special summer session has begun with a focus on group activities. Young children and volunteer mentors gather on Tuesday evenings for reading, writing, board games and outdoor fun.

Power of Vision Mural Program—A core group of young leaders that have been trained by Hope mentor younger youth as they learn the artistic process of mural making. Hope is partnering with Waite House and Brian Coyle Center to engage youth to complete two neighborhood beautification murals this summer.

SPEAC—Young adults who have attended months of training presented their extensive research to the community about Peavey Park, a park with limited resources a block from Hope. The leaders will continue work to bring more resources to Peavey.

National Night Out— Tuesday, August 4th!

Dancing, music, art, food, games and so much more! For 26 years, National Night out has been a part of Hope's history where people of all ages and from diverse cultures come together for a neighborhood party.

Summer Adult Education Classes

Through the summer adult immigrants meet at Hope six days a week to take classes in English (reading, writing, speaking) math and computer learning. Classes are taught by Minneapolis Public School teachers.

Hope's Website Has a New Look

Check it out!

www.hope-community.org

Hope main office:
612-874-8867

A special thanks to Triangle Park Creative.



Photo by Bruce Silcox

A Hope Mentor: Omari

When asked to share a story about his volunteer work at Hope Community, Omari recalls a moment when he was asked to share with youth leaders at Hope what it is like to be an African-American mentor. He said, "Until that moment I didn't realize how a big a role I am really playing in the community as a mentor—not just as a black man but as a father figure." Omari is a tenant of Hope and started volunteering over two years ago with the youth leadership group.

Most recently he worked with youth at Hope to create a documentary film about a historical event in African-American history. He states, "I saw a lot of kids change through the process. With each workshop, they met new people and started to put more of themselves into it. It changed their perspectives."

A father of three, Omari feels strongly about giving kids voice in their own lives. Raised by his grandmother, he did not have any male role models. Omari remembers his youth, when "Community was sell drugs or work." That's why today he volunteers—to be there for kids and to let them know there is a community they can turn to if they need it.

A father, activist, mentor and community member, Omari aspires to his belief that, "It takes one person to change the world."

Planned Giving—We Invite You to Become a Keeper

We invite you to join the 56 "Keepers of Hope" who have given planned gifts, ranging from leaving bequests to Hope Community in their will and life insurance policies to donating shares of stock. Planned giving is not only a benefit to Hope, but it can also help you, our donors, achieve your philanthropic and financial goals.

Please call Susan Marschalk for the range of planned giving options that can benefit you right now at 612-435-1823.

A Journal of **HOPE**

Dear Friend,

With this brief edition of our “Journal” we bring you a flavor of this community. We can tell you the numbers—hundreds of kids and adults engaged in learning, in art, in leadership and 350 people living in our safe and affordable housing. But what brings it to life are the stories, the hope, the belief in the future.

We are inspired daily. We appreciate you now more than ever, as we all face challenging times. Because of you a neighborhood that once was in despair continues to grow stronger. Thank you!

Mary Keefe, executive director

Spring Celebrations

Celebrations are a special time at Hope and speak of pride and community. This spring the celebrations were abundant.

Children involved in the community literacy program graduated and shared their journals, adult immigrant students read short stories at their graduation and organized a potluck, youth leaders held a community event to present their research with the goal to bring more resources to a local park.

Volunteers toasted one another at their annual recognition dinner, young women involved in programs mentored by local women artists performed for family and friends, and the new 49-unit Wellstone green building attracted over 200 people for a grand opening.



Photo by Bruce Silcox

Girls Empowerment Program Graduation, May 2009.

Much More Than Sleeping Bags, Mosquitoes and Canoes

“I learned how to make friends and be a friend,” said a youth last summer after participating in Hope’s camp mentoring program. For the third year, summer camp at Hope is an opportunity to engage and empower new youth and bring families together.

Thanks to Pohlad Family Charities, Hope will send over 30 youth to overnight camp, most for the first time. Leading up to this new experience, youth come to six mentoring sessions to think critically about issues like how to build trust and friendships and how to be leaders at camp.

On the morning of departure, parents cook breakfast to recognize the accomplishment and commitment of their children. At Hope, summer camp is more than just sleeping under the stars. Young leaders are developed and new friendships make it easier to try new things.