

At Hope Community, beautiful, healthy buildings and homes with 173 apartments, **community gathering spaces and commercial businesses** reclaim a neighborhood that was devastated. If you spent a week in Hope's community center **you would experience the energy**. There might be an intensive class with 20 people involved in an eight-month **leadership and civic engagement program**. If the weather were warm there would be **gardeners, garden mentors and cooks**. There would also be strategy meetings of our **healthy food leader team**. Kids would be in the garden, in a program **building literacy and reading confidence**, in a **Girls' Empowerment group**, or learning leadership through **group mentoring**. Some adults would be involved in an **entrepreneur class**, while others would be learning about **personal empowerment**. During tax season, hundreds of people would receive **free tax assistance** and many would **start savings accounts**. Others would come to **listening sessions** about financial coaching and communities of color. Community members and Hope organizers might be **planning strategy around racial equity issues** like how park resources are invested. Artists might be organizing **cross-cultural community dialogues**. There would many meetings with partners to **plan and reflect about common work**. At Hope, everything we do **fight isolation and build community**.

HOPE



Community

Dear Friend,

Recently someone asked me why I joined the Board of Directors of Hope Community. I think the more important question is why I chose to stay on the board the past six years. Hope has transformed the city blocks in Minneapolis around Portland and Franklin Avenues with housing for people and families, as well as with small businesses. These new buildings and the renovation of old houses replaced a shell of empty spaces and worn down houses where crime flourished. I watched the changes happening even before I knew Hope.

But Hope's accomplishments transcend brick and mortar, and that's why I choose to stay. Hope provides a different kind of space--spaces for people to come together to build a community.

That's where Hope shines. Hope's staff facilitate listening groups where adults, families and children can sit down and talk to one another about the things they care about and then take action to bring their hopes to fruition. So much has happened as a result: a program that teaches reading and confidence to young children, youth leadership and art groups, advocacy in solving neighborhood problems like the need for more resources in a nearby park, adult leadership training, free advice on completing tax forms and a thriving food justice program. There is much more, but the point is that when people act together, they are connected to each other and empowered by their accomplishments.

What I know as a board member is that so many of you are a part of our larger community. With you we can continue to build hope and possibility. Recently I watched a video about Hope's work. It ends with, "Hope is here to stay." I'm here to stay as well, and I invite you to stand with me.

—Brockman Schumacher  
Hope Community Board Member

# Building a strong and healthy community!



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“When Hope first started building, I started trusting Hope. The neighborhood is changing day by day. Hope is the reason I am here now.”

—Yussuf Mohamed, owner of Twin Cities Day Care and Hope commercial tenant since 2007

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Working with community, Hope developed a vision and built partnerships to change the face of the Phillips neighborhood.

In 2014, construction began on the final phase of a major development project with our partner, Aeon. The new building will include 90 new mixed-income apartments and a large community garden.

People-centered community development

- 475 families and adults live in 173 quality rental homes
- 50 percent of all residents are children under the age of 18
- The median household income for a family of 3 or more living in Hope apartments is \$19,000

# People make the future.



At Hope, everything we do fights isolation and builds community. We build power by engaging people in building their own lives and their community together. Today, 1,500 people per year make a difference for themselves and their community at Hope.

## Children, youth and parents learn and develop as leaders together

- Learning in Community—reading skills and confidence
- Girls' Empowerment Program—for adolescent girls
- Art in Community—youth learn and lead through art
- Youth Leadership—group leadership mentoring

## Adults invest in themselves and in their community

- Year-round food, community and leadership program
- Eight-month civic leadership and action training and network
- Sixteen-week micro-entrepreneur training
- Eight-week personal empowerment program
- Tax assistance and savings enrollment

## People work together to make positive changes

- Increasing access to healthy foods
- Advocating for transportation access
- Pushing for resources for safe, healthy neighborhood parks

“Community is a powerful thing. I’ve never seen anything like it, the power of reaching out to others... It’s a common thing we all have in our spirits and our souls.”

—Omari, Hope Food Justice Leader,  
2014-15 Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council;  
former Hope Community intern

**Hope Community**  
[www.hope-community.org](http://www.hope-community.org)  
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