



SPRING 2018

# COMMUNITY

People Serving People helps homeless and at-risk children and their families manage crisis situations and build a strong foundation for their long-term success.



## sibling story

**“No matter where you come from, it can always get better,”** Tameka shared when she and her two siblings, Teron and Tachena, came back to visit People Serving People after more than 15 years – not as guests, but as members of our community.

Tameka, Teron, and Tachena began their lives in Chicago, Illinois. As their mom, Renee, shared with People Serving People in 2004, “You have to know where I came from. I’ve been out there, and didn’t do myself any good. I made bad judgments.” A survivor of domestic violence, Renee long struggled with compounding and traumatic events. Her children went to stay with a grandparent but, after grandma passed, Renee was determined to give her three kids a life of stability and moved to Minnesota for a new start.

Tameka arrived in Minnesota as a 10 year-old with her younger sister, Tachena, in 2002. Recalling their first few nights with their mom in emergency shelter at People Serving People, “It was nerve-racking – the building

was so big, and everything was so new,” Tameka said. “But I had my sister and my mom, and I felt that in my heart everything would be okay, and it was.”

Teron joined his family in Minnesota in 2003, and they were later approved for People Serving People’s supportive housing program. As a 16 year-old teenager, Teron’s memories of that stressful time in their lives were very different than those of his sisters’. As Teron recalls, “I was reluctant, and it didn’t matter what they had to offer...I was going to hate it because it forced me to move.” His feelings changed, however, as he started to meet staff, make friends, and participate in the programming. **“As I thought about all of the positive benefits People Serving People offered, it quickly turned into home,”** Teron said.

*“Coming back here made us see how far we’ve come.”*

“Everyone was so friendly. I just remember a lot of smiling faces, and a lot of people telling us, ‘It’s going to be okay.’ It was comforting, because we had a lot of help that we didn’t have before,” Tameka added. “People Serving People provided a lot of basic needs that you need to function in day-to-day life,” Teron said, but to his family, “it was so much more than that.” When asked what about People Serving People made the biggest impact, Teron said, “It was the intangibles that you need to be successful once you take off from this place.”

*“sibling story” continued on page 7*

## board of directors

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## 2017 Overview



**3,093**

people received  
shelter



**63%**

of guests  
were children



**41**

days in  
average stay



**163**

children learned in early  
childhood development  
classrooms



**307**

K-12 children thrived in  
after-school tutoring and  
enrichment activities



**189**

parents found  
employment



**185**

children celebrated  
birthdays



thank you corporate & foundation donors  
September 2017—March 2018

\$100,000+

Target Foundation

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Minnesota State Arts Board

*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.*



\$1,000-\$4,999

Allegra Printing *(in kind)*

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## center of excellence update

People Serving People's newest initiative, the Center of Excellence, is growing! Our Preschool and Learning Center opened last year with four classrooms, serving children ages 16 months-5 years old, and school-age children up to 12 years old. In the first six months, we saw a large need in our community for infant care so we expedited the opening of an infant room. In March 2018, we welcomed five babies into our new infant classroom. This new room increased the center's total capacity to 57 children. **We are excited to serve the youngest members of our community and look forward to seeing them learn and grow throughout their time in our program!**

In January 2018 the Preschool and Learning Center was designated a Strong Beginnings site by Hennepin County. Strong Beginnings sites are required to serve at least 65% students with low income and/or special needs.

This designation affirms our commitment to serving those with the most need, engaging the whole family, and using data to track progress. We are also proud to have a 4-Star Parent Aware rating from the State of Minnesota.



**We seek to support the whole family, not just the enrolled child.** Our Parent Engagement Program is underway, connecting families with resources and empowering them to be their child's first and foremost teacher and advocate. We also offer family events to foster fun parent/child interactions. The Center's Parent Engagement Program is an extension of our shelter's Parent Engagement Program that offers weekly facilitated parenting groups.

## systems change

For more than three decades, People Serving People has been a leader in providing direct services to families experiencing homelessness in our community. **How can we use this expertise and have a larger impact on preventing homelessness? How can we create the greatest stability for children in the community?**

Our strategic plan centered on these questions and they are now guiding Rinal Ray's work at People Serving People. Rinal joined our staff late last year as the Director of Systems Change and Community Engagement. She brings to this role a background in advocacy, public policy, teaching, training, and capacity building. Most recently, she was the Deputy Public Policy Director for the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits.



What does it mean for People Serving People to work on systems change initiatives? The lives and experiences of our shelter guests are shaped by the interconnected systems with which they interact. Often these systems create and perpetuate economic and educational disparities, among others. Rinal leads the work to engage People Serving People in issue advocacy and public policy discussions to help inform lawmakers on the barriers our community faces. This legislative session we advocated for **policies that help create stability for families experiencing homelessness through expedited access to early childhood education, rental assistance for homeless and highly mobile students, investments in affordable housing, and a taskforce around childhood trauma informed policies and practices.** She will also lead our work to improve the field of trauma informed care and family resilience through increasing the trauma informed capacity of the community at large.

This work will be done consistent with our organizational values and rooted in the lived experiences of guests and



community members. We move forward with a racial and economic equity lens and a trauma informed approach to our work.

Our systems change efforts are well underway. Last fall, we partnered with MinneMinds to host two Gubernatorial Forums on early childhood education. It was a great opportunity to ask questions and learn candidates' positions on various matters surrounding early childhood education. On Election Day 2017, People Serving People's staff accompanied shelter guests to the polls and vouched for their residency eligibility. They also encouraged voter education and mobilization through a fun event in the lobby where our young guests got to cast ballots in the Kids Voting Booth. They decided important contests like best superhero and favorite book.

*We move forward with a racial and economic equity lens and a trauma informed approach to our work.*

In March, members of People Serving People's staff and board of directors joined hundreds of our peers and allies for Homeless Day on the Hill. Prior to the event, we partnered with the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless and Simpson Housing to offer a Voices for Housing Training. **This event empowered participants to share their stories and use their voices to advocate for policies to help end homelessness in our community.**

Partners and colleagues from government agencies, schools, and other social service organizations joined us in March as we hosted the first in a series of community convenings on trauma informed approaches. The first gathering offered an introduction to trauma informed care. We look forward to sharing more and learning alongside one another at three additional convenings later this year.



Join us for events that benefit children and their families sheltering at **People Serving People**. Chefs for Change dinners are sponsored by chefs and restaurants who donate their culinary skills and the food and wine served at dinner. Our Annual Gala is sponsored by local business partners and generous donors. Event proceeds support programs and services for children and their families at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

# CHEFS FOR CHANGE

This "chef's table" experience is an elegant dinner party for 40-50 guests, hosted by a top Twin Cities chef, including a four to five course meal with wine pairings.

**Are you a restaurant owner or chef who wants to help families find their way home? Contact Mallory Evans today.**



## Upcoming events

- 06.18.18** **Cosmos at Loews Hotels** \$85/person **COSMOS** MODERN • AMERICAN
- 09.24.18** **Republic** \$60/person, End of Summer Beer Dinner **REPUBLIC** \*MPIS\*
- 10.22.18** **Bar Brigade** \$75/person, Autumn in Paris **BAR BRIGADE**



Thank you to our recent host chefs!

The Renaissance Minneapolis, The Depot, and Johnson Brothers



**RENAISSANCE**  
MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL  
THE DEPOT

The SIX15 Room of the Grand Hotel

**THE SIX15 ROOM**

To register for or sponsor any of these events, contact Mallory Evans.



peopleservingpeople.org/events



612-277-0256



mevans@peopleservingpeople.org



## 2018 unmasking homelessness gala

Our 19th Annual Gala was a great success thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors, volunteers, attendees, and partners! Together, we raised more than \$270,000 to support children and families experiencing homelessness.

Thank you 2018 sponsors, guests, and supporters!



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**07.29.18**

**People Serving People**

2:30-4:45pm

614 3rd Street S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

**\$5/person**

## families volunteering together

Enjoy volunteering as a family experience with your children ages 5 and older.

We invite you to bring a donation of new or nearly-new board books for our youngest guests.



**09.13.18**

**The Center of Excellence**

7:00-8:30am

2400 Park Ave. S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404

## back to school breakfast

You're invited to our first-ever morning fundraiser event, the Back to School Breakfast. Join us for breakfast and learn about People Serving People's educational programming at our emergency shelter and new Center of Excellence.

We're looking for table captains to invite friends, family, or colleagues to attend this one-hour complimentary breakfast and program. This is a great opportunity to introduce your network to People Serving People! **To become a table captain, contact Mallory Evans at mevans@peopleservingpeople.org.**





## GIVING GUIDE

### \$2,500 Prepares children today for success tomorrow.

Our nationally accredited, 4-Star Parent Aware rated early learning environments use research-based and trauma-informed practices to prepare children for kindergarten and future academic success.

### \$5,000 Empowers families to gain stability.

The average stay of a family at People Serving People is 41 days. Families can access any of our comprehensive and onsite services from early childhood development, K-12 education and enrichment, and advocacy to employment, parent engagement, and mental health programs.

### \$1,000 Engages children, youth, and families.

Afterschool and weekend enrichment activities sustain and increase children's academic skills and provide the whole family with a safe and fun outlet for recreation and stress relief.

### \$750 Builds multi-generational capacity in our community.

Our theory of change revolves around early childhood education. Through partnerships and community engagement, we continue to move upstream of the shelter system while improving the field of trauma-informed education and service delivery.

### \$250 Equips parents to be their child's advocate.

Parent Engagement programs help increase families' awareness of their child's development and growth through parenting groups, individual meetings, and connections to community partners and resources.

### \$500 Supports parents in employment search.

Family and Employment Advocates focus on the strengths of families in shelter, working with guests individually and in groups to connect them with community partners and resources while offering onsite services to assist them with job searching, employment, health, wellness, and financial goals.

People Serving People is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax identification no. 41-1965067. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Gifts may be used to support any program unless otherwise restricted by the donor.

## WAYS TO GIVE



### one-time gift

We welcome your generous support with a one-time gift.

Online via credit card at [PeopleServingPeople.org](https://www.PeopleServingPeople.org)

Donors can also donate the following types of gifts:

- Stock, mutual funds, or other appreciated investments
- Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA
- Donor Advised Funds

Checks or cash mailed to:  
People Serving People  
614 3rd Street South  
Minneapolis, MN 55415



### sustaining gift

Make a difference in the lives of children experiencing homelessness with a sustaining monthly or quarterly gift.

Online via credit card at [PeopleServingPeople.org](https://www.PeopleServingPeople.org)

Automatic gift from checking account.

Payroll deduction at participating employers, contact your employer.

United Way annual campaign, designate "PeopleServingPeople."



### planned giving

Your legacy. Their futures.

Your legacy gift helps build a community in which all children have the stability and support they need to develop their full capacity to thrive.

Gifts can be made via:

- stocks
- securities
- cash bequests
- retirement accounts
- life insurance
- charitable gift annuities
- and more



### employer gift match

Leverage your contribution or volunteer hours with a matching gift from your employer.

Search our online database of employer match gifts at [PeopleServingPeople.org](https://www.PeopleServingPeople.org) or ask your employer.

"sibling story" continued from cover

Renee and her children moved out of People Serving People and into stable housing in St. Paul in 2004. Tameka graduated high school and continued on to complete her culinary arts degree from North Dakota State College of Science; Teron completed his bachelor's degree in social work from the University of St. Thomas and is currently pursuing a master's program. **"Both of us are in positions where we serve others," Teron commented, "and it was because of the guidance, assistance, and the supports we had at People Serving People. We wanted to go on and perpetuate that, to share it with others."**

Tachena, Teron and Tameka's younger sibling, currently lives in Mississippi but came back late last fall for a family visit. All three siblings decided to have "sibling day" and happened to find their way back to People Serving People. "So many memories rushed back, like playing outside and waiting for the school bus." Tameka exclaimed, "Walking back through the front door was just like coming back home after college!" Tameka then paused, trying to find the words to share her gratitude. She said, "My heart felt so full. We were called a success story a couple times during that day. Coming back here made us see how far we've come."

## culinary arts training program

**People Serving People's Food Services does more than prepare 200,000 nutritious meals annually to shelter guests; they also help prepare the future food services workforce.**

The Culinary Arts Training Program, now in its 14th year, provides classroom instruction and hands-on training to adults interested in a career in the food service industry. Food Services Manager Mike Seiler and Assistant Food Services Coordinator Pam Massie, bring more than 50 years of combined professional experience to the class. Ms. Massie is a graduate of the Culinary Arts Training Program. Ms. Massie cultivated her skills as a trainee in the Culinary Arts Training Program. Upon graduation, she was hired as a cook and later promoted to Coordinator. Today, she directs the Culinary Arts Training Program. We have been fortunate to hire 30 graduates since the program's inception.

Over the 13-week program, trainees gain experience in menu design, soups, and roasting, among other areas. Instructors also teach short-order cooking and provide an opportunity for trainees to test their short-order cooking skills for People Serving People's staff. For their final assignment, students design and implement a meal service for up to 300 of our guests.

As part of a college entrance essay, Teron was asked to think of the most influential people in his life. Thinking of his mother, he reflected on how he once told her, "Even though I didn't like it in the moment, the best thing you have ever done for this family—ever—is bring us here." As Renee shared with us in 2004, "At People Serving People, I did good things. I got a job, and was able to take care of my kids. I couldn't see doing it by myself. I'm making it, because of this place."

Teron thinks back on the family's time in shelter as when his mother "began to take ownership of her lived experience, and got the most out of it. I credit People Serving People with a lot of the success that my family has found today. Without the community support for People Serving People, a lot of the things that we benefited from probably would not have been possible."

Tameka said she would always come back and visit People Serving People. **"This will always be my original home in Minnesota."**

Upon completion, trainees can take the ServSafe certification exam. Graduates leave prepared for a wide range of culinary positions. Blue Plate Restaurant Company offers Culinary Arts Training Program graduates an opportunity to interview for a two-week paid internship as a prep cook or line cook at one of Blue Plate's restaurants with the potential for an employment offer to follow. Graduates may also have the opportunity for a paid internship with People Serving People.



**"Being here helped a lot. It showed me what a real kitchen is like, more than my home kitchen. It gave me a whole lot of confidence,"** said recent student Misgana. "As a mother of two, it's not easy to afford further education. I'm very grateful for this opportunity at no fee."

If you or someone you know is interested in participating in the Culinary Arts Training Program please visit our website, [www.peopleservingpeople.org](https://www.peopleservingpeople.org).



People  
Serving  
People

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