



SPRING 2020

COMMUNITY

People Serving People exists to see families thrive.



message from Daniel Gumnit, CEO

One way to think about trauma is to imagine it is like the wind, while it may be invisible, its effects can be clearly felt. Over the past few months, the winds of trauma have been rising. People Serving People's guests, community, and staff began to feel the stiff breeze of trauma on Christmas Day 2019 when the Drake Hotel burned down. The fire displaced hundreds of individuals and families. Within minutes the fire also burned up all of People Serving People's family shelter overflow capacity. Even before the flames were extinguished, our community rallied together to provide shelter and comfort to those impacted by the fire. People Serving People's staff raced to reconfigure our facility to accommodate more families and partnered with Hennepin County to assist families scattered in hotels around the metro area. Supported by our generous donors, our staff worked tirelessly to support the survivors.

Immediately following the buffeting our community took from the Drake Hotel Fire, the winds of trauma had truly begun to howl with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nothing that I have witnessed in my nearly ten years at People Serving People has been as traumatic to our families, community and staff as the pandemic. This crisis has profoundly changed every aspect of our families'

lives and our organization's operations and programs. We miss our amazing volunteers and all those who can't join us in our building. Every day I am in awe of our brave, tenacious and resilient staff. They are working at the shelter and in isolation 24/7 to keep our families safe, facilities running, and early education programs open. In partnership with Hennepin County, Haven, and Beacon Housing, we have helped lead the effort to establish an isolation and quarantine shelter at a hotel a few blocks from our downtown location that is now up and running. The financial costs of the pandemic have been crushing. We are immensely grateful for our community's generosity and support during this crisis.

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As we write, the winds of trauma have reached gale force and are ripping through our community, following the killing of another Black man, George Floyd, at the hands of police. The winds will rise once the Governor's state of emergency is over, the moratorium of evictions is eased, unemployment surges, and the economic costs of the pandemic deepen. We anticipate a flood of families entering homelessness in the coming weeks. This is why racial equity is at the center of our work at People Serving People and needed now more than ever.

As we always do, People Serving People and our community will brave the storm. We will continue to shelter children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness and work day and night to see our families thrive.

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we're adapting!

COVID-19 has impacted every aspect of our work at People Serving People. Fortunately, our families, staff, and organization are resilient. Take a look at some of the ways our departments are evolving to continue serving families despite the pandemic.

development

As the organization faces enormous unexpected expenses and the loss of our volunteer workforce, People Serving People's Development Department is reaching out to the community for support in this time of need. The team is expanding and growing virtual fundraising, looking for creative ways to connect and share information with supporters, and reimagining our once in-person events.

"Roughly six hours a day are now being dedicated to disinfecting every shared space in our 10-story building."

education

People Serving People's Education Programs responded to the Governor's call to stay open and provide child care for health, emergency, and other critical sector workers. Both the Center of Excellence and the shelter's Early Childhood Development Program have instituted Minnesota Department of Health recommended practices to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Frequent disinfecting, implementing social distancing, and checking students' and staff temperatures throughout the day are a few of the measures being taken at both locations. In addition to maintaining nurturing early education environments, our education department is working with families to make sure school-age children have the tools and support they need for distance learning.

facilities

In response to environmental risks of COVID-19, People Serving People's Facilities Department has enhanced an already rigid cleaning regimen. Roughly six hours a day are now being dedicated to disinfecting every shared space in our 10-story building. As guests spend more time in their rooms, staff is also responding to support increased efforts to keep personal spaces clean and safe for families.

family support services

While many outside supports for families experiencing homelessness have gone virtual or been put on hold, People Serving People's Family Support Services team continues to show up for shelter guests during this crucial time. Staff is working 1:1 with families around their identified goals, mental health, employment opportunities, and material and emotional support. Additionally, the team is leading guest communication efforts in response to COVID-19, keeping families informed through digital messages and a weekly guest digest.

human resources

Much has been asked of our organization's amazing staff in recent months. People Serving People's Human Resources Department is dedicated to supporting employees during this period of constant flux. Priorities include implementing safety measures, and dispersing important information in a COVID-19 focused bi-weekly newsletter. The department is also leading staff appreciation efforts, with care packages and creative demonstrations of gratitude.

kitchen

Meals at People Serving People were previously prepared by kitchen staff and served to guests by volunteers in our once bustling dining hall. Since the onslaught of the pandemic, kitchen staff have led the way in configuring a new process for families to safely receive meals. With the help of staff from other departments, the kitchen crew is now preparing meals in our closed environment kitchen. Rotating crews of staff members are delivering meals to each family's room, three times a day. Kitchen and meal delivery crews are taking every precaution to provide safe and nutritious meals to families during this uneasy time.



resident resources

Despite the pandemic, supporting guests during their time in shelter remains a 24/7 responsibility for People Serving People's Resident Resources staff. Staff is adjusting to continue providing essential services by limiting the number of guests in shared spaces like the lobby or laundry facility. Masks are available for guests at our front desk, and we've installed plexiglass barriers so staff and guests can interact confidently.

systems change & community engagement

More than ever, Minnesota families experiencing homelessness and other adversities need strong communities and systems in place. Data is showing us that Minnesotans of color—particularly Black and Native American communities—are already and will continue to be the most critically impacted by COVID-19. People Serving People's Systems Change and Community Engagement teams are propelling crisis response and advocacy at state and local levels, working to share this important data, and find fast solutions that make a difference for those we serve.

"we're adapting" continued on page 7

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Join us for events benefitting families who are supported by People Serving People. Chefs for Change dinners are sponsored by chefs and restaurants who donate their culinary skills and the food and wine or beer 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.



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 or beer pairings.



Thank you to our recent host!

R
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We look forward to having you join us for these events when we are able to offer them.

families volunteering together: an event for families helping families

At the start of the year, local families had a first-hand opportunity to get involved with an ongoing People Serving People volunteer event, Families Volunteering Together. Over 70 parents and children dedicated their Sunday to completing projects in our downtown shelter and learning about the impact of our shared work.

In total, the volunteer families assembled 1,401 detergent portion cups—a month’s worth of laundry for families in shelter, 465 packs or a week’s worth of wipes for babies, and eight tie blankets for kids. Additionally, event participants donated 114 toddler/preschool activity books to help entertain children during their time in shelter.

This event allowed children as young as five years old to experience the act of giving back. Our goal is to take part in stewarding the next generation of givers in the Twin Cities community. To be the first to know about future volunteer events, follow People Serving People on Facebook or sign up for our email newsletter at peopleservingpeople.org



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



peopleservingpeople.org/events



612-277-0256



mevans@peopleservingpeople.org

new date- gala 2020: October 23

Due to conditions related to COVID-19, we have rescheduled our annual gala.

Thank you for your understanding.

Enjoy dinner, games & auctions with your friends and fellow People Serving People supporters at **People Serving People's 21st Annual Gala, A Race for Stable Housing.**

Friday, October 23, 2020
at the Renaissance Minneapolis-The Depot

Get your tickets, tables and sponsorships on the website:
peopleservingpeople.org/events/annual-gala/

Can't wait to see you all on October 23rd!

Thank you to those who have already purchased their tickets, tables and sponsorships.



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The Center of Excellence
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back to school breakfast

presented by Delta Dental of Minnesota

You're invited to our morning fundraiser event, the Back to School Breakfast presented by Delta Dental. Join us for breakfast and learn about People Serving People's educational programming. 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**





Surprise Us!

Your gift of any amount will help children & families experiencing homelessness.



\$250

Helps families access employment services.



\$500

Supports families through one-on-one advocacy programs & connections to community resources.



\$2500

Provides 4 star parent aware rated early learning centers to prepare children for kindergarten and future success.



People
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Provides school-age children with enrichment activities and support.

People Serving People is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax identification number 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 donor.

ways to give

Our programs are funded by donations. Your financial contribution makes a lasting difference in the lives of children and families in our programs.

one-time

Financial support helps to make People Serving People's crisis response and prevention programs possible. Your gift helps build a community in which all families have the support they need to thrive. Some employers match gifts. Ask your employer!

sustaining

Monthly donors help People Serving People move upstream of family homelessness, and can make a difference in the lives of children and their families in our community all year long.

peer to peer

Use your passion. Spread awareness. Take an active role. Whether you create your own fundraiser, or support an existing one, you are strengthening families in our community with your gifts and talents!

legacy

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.

gift of assets

Your gift of stock, mutual funds, or other appreciated assets helps build a community in which all children have the stability and support they need to develop their full capacity to thrive.



People
Serving
People

**We exist
to see families
thrive.**

Donate today at PeopleservingPeople.org

Questions? Contact Mallory Evans, Director of Development, mevans@peopleservingpeople.org or 612-277-0256.



MISSION
We exist to see families thrive.

VISION
Healed families.
Transformed communities.

"we're adapting" continued from page 3

isolation and quarantine hotel for families experiencing homelessness

In early May, People Serving People, joined forces with other community organizations to open a COVID-19 isolation and quarantine hotel, specifically for families experiencing homelessness. Our team, along with Hennepin County, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, and Haven Housing, responded to this need to keep families safe. On May 22nd we were notified that 2 families in our shelter had tested positive with COVID-19 – the first known cases in our building. Our leadership and staff had been planning for this inevitability for months, and we were ready. Staff quickly moved these families to the isolation and quarantine hotel that same day, and were able to mitigate the exposure to other families in shelter. The hard work put into

this plan paid off, ensuring the safety of families and staff.

families

The COVID-19 response has been hard on families staying at People Serving People. Some families feel frustrated they are not able to access the in-person supports and services that they were previously available. Some are fearful about how COVID-19 may affect their family, especially in a shelter setting. Tensions and stress-levels are high as families try to stay in their rooms with little time away from one another, and as they try to tackle distance learning. Ultimately, families continue to show immense strength, persistence, and resilience. They continue to get up every day and work incredibly hard to resolve their housing crisis, while in the midst of a public health crisis.





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