



SUMMER 2021

COMMUNITY

People Serving People exists to see families thrive.



Brighter Days Ahead

Balmy summer temperatures and the sun high in the sky are indicators of brighter days ahead — hopefully for us all. I am writing to acknowledge where we've been, take stock of where we are now, and share a glimpse of what's ahead for 2021.

Since the onset of the pandemic last year, we have experienced near constant change in both the ambiguous loss of a way of life and acute personal losses — without the ways we have known to comfort and be comforted — for over a year. At People Serving People, our families, staff, volunteers, and supporters all have risen to meet these challenges. We overhauled meal delivery, shifted our educational offerings to help students with distance learning, and we worked with families in our prevention programs differently than envisioned. Our teams found ways to keep advancing our mission and engage families. We will continue to shift, respond, and adapt in the days and months ahead.

Amid this global pandemic, several Black people were killed by police, including George Floyd. This wrongful taking of life ignited an uprising that demanded a racial reckoning, and we watched as parts of our cities burned. A former police officer was convicted for the murder as the city watched in anticipation. While many were waking up to racial injustices, we continued on our path to champion racial equity within the organization and in our public actions and advocacy. Each of

our departments has identified its unique role and contribution to advancing this work.

The pandemic further revealed the depths of our communities' inequitable positioning across many indicators. It also revealed abilities to shift, innovate, and persist. While it amplified some of the ugliest parts of our human and societal nature, it also amplified the incredible sacrifices we make to take care of each other and the generosity of our neighbors. When our over 6500 annual volunteers couldn't come into the building to contribute their time, they shifted to contributing resources — from masks to dollars — all of it matters.

When I look back over the last year, it's probably been some of the hardest work — brain and heart work — we will ever do. What has also been confirmed for me and gives me some comfort is that we are capable of holding multiple truths, making the best out of less-than-ideal circumstances, and that we are resilient beyond words. In addition to the everyday work of responding to the crisis of family homelessness, we overwhelmingly kept families and staff healthy and safe. Amid all this, our teams made important strides to prevent the experience of family homelessness in launching guest-centered Family Prevention Programs, the Family Financial Empowerment Collaborative Action Committee, and the Whole Family Systems Family Fellowship. Our Education teams supported young learners to stay engaged in their classrooms at a distance and build community in our programs. We helped a historic number of people experiencing homelessness access the polls to vote in November. At the end of May, over 70% of our staff and over 40% of the families staying with us have chosen to get vaccinated, and families have regular access to vaccination onsite. These are all wins and advance our mission to see families thrive!

Integrating the experiences and learnings from the pandemic and community events around us, we know the road is long. And we are equipped with grit, grace, community, and resilience, to navigate to the brighter days ahead that include the return of sharing a meal, on-site volunteers, and in-person events and gatherings. We are going to make it through — we can feel it already!

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Students Return to In-Person Learning!

As students returned to in-person schooling this Spring, families' needs shifted and our education staff modified program offerings to meet those needs. Our K-12 program resumed in-person after-school activities to help provide consistency to families as they again adjust their routines. It is especially important this year that our youngest guests receive consistent, positive programming to provide structure in an everchanging time. Currently, our K-12 summer programming is available for families on weekdays. Each week, there is a different theme and

correlating activities including crafts, STEM projects, cooking experiences, and more! Our staff and programs continue to support families and provide a safe place for children to grow, learn and thrive.



Dining Hall “Refresh”

While the People Serving People dining hall is still closed due to COVID, we are doing a “refresh” to get it ready for the day we can all safely share a meal again. In the meantime, volunteers stepped up to help the Food Service Department get the place ready. Individuals and groups came in to clean and paint the space. The dining hall is now sparkling!

We are hoping to do a grand reopening when the time is right, and will share updates as the room comes together. We look forward to the day when our families are once again dining together and our volunteers are back with us!



COVID Updates

The city of Minneapolis lifted its mask mandate on June 1st. We continue to take our lead, however, on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) from the Minnesota Department of Health. MDH continues to recommend mask use in shelters and schools.

While vaccination is increasingly widespread statewide, it's still not widespread among many of the families we serve. This means people remain at risk of experiencing severe COVID. Since no one prevention method prevents COVID, we continue to practice the layered approach including masks and social distancing. This also includes providing information on vaccination, and the ability to choose whether or not to be vaccinated.

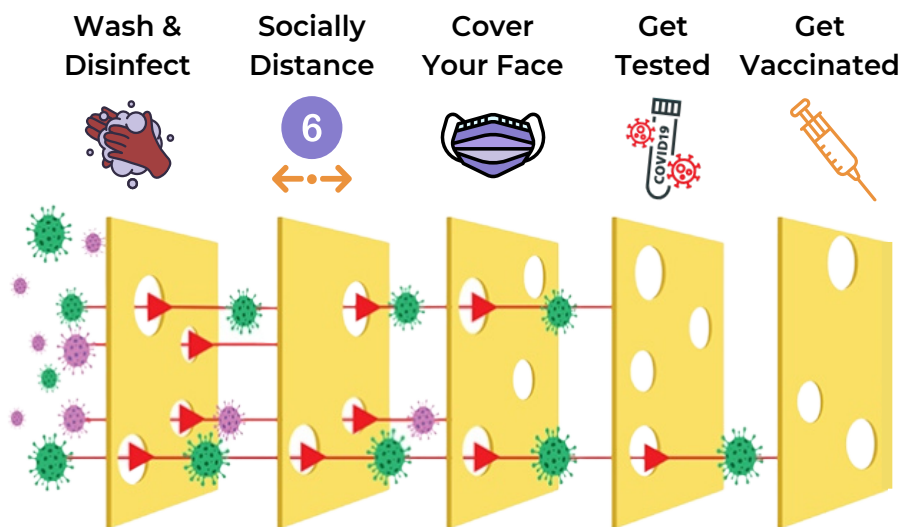
Once in February and again in March, we held a vaccination clinic and offered the COVID vaccine. The Moderna vaccine

was offered to staff and families staying with us during these clinics. Today, all three vaccines are available by appointment at the Hennepin County on-site

clinic. At the end of May, over 70% of our staff and more than 40% of the families staying with us have been vaccinated.

No Single Prevention Approach is 100%

Layer These to Help Prevent Disease



Keep your family, friends & co-workers safe.



Traditional Foods Program

Food is such an important part of our identities and what brings us together. In March, the Food Service Department put together the first in a series of cultural meals to honor the strong role that food plays in our roots and identities. Three meals were offered to shelter families to honor Indigenous food traditions. Lunch is pictured top, left. Families received the meals along with information about the different food cultures of local Indigenous tribes and an acknowledgment that our building resides on sacred Dakota land.

The kitchen crew planned and served meals to commemorate Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day. On June 19th, 1865, news of the Emancipation Proclamation finally reached Galveston Bay, Texas, proclaiming freedom from slavery throughout the Confederate states. Traditionally, foods served on Juneteenth are red in color, signifying the bloodshed through the mistreatment of enslaved people. Lunch is pictured bottom, left.

Celebrating Juneteenth

People Serving People staff and families gathered for a Juneteenth Celebration! We had music, hula hoops, ice cream, a ceremony to recognize ancestors, and wishes for our youth.

As part of our strategic plan, we will continue to champion racial equity by creating greater cultural and racial self-awareness among staff and the families we serve!



All fundraising activities and events support programming at our Minneapolis shelter and Center of Excellence Preschool. People Serving People offers a broad range of on-site programs and services designed to address common barriers faced by families experiencing homelessness. We help families find ways to overcome these barriers to self-sufficiency through advocacy, employment, education, and parenting programs.

When you volunteer or donate, you help to ensure that all families have the support they need to thrive.

Building Strong Communities

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

END OF SCHOOL YEAR

Celebration!



**Raising Support for
Educational Services**

Our **End of School Year Celebration** took place online June 3rd at 8 a.m. We celebrated our students and staff as they completed a particularly challenging school year. Attendees were introduced to People Serving People and learned how investing in high-quality education is a solid foundation for ending the cycle of homelessness. Thanks to supporters we raised nearly \$17,000 for our educational services programming.

You can still help to end the cycle of homelessness by donating to our education programs. Just go to the following website:

<https://tinyurl.com/Celebrate21>

New Event a Success!

Our newest event, **Dining for Change**, was held Monday, June 21 at **Duke's on 7**, a brand new restaurant from the folks at **Craft and Crew Hospitality**. We filled the tables, saw folks we had missed dearly, and celebrated the beautiful new restaurant and weather, all while supporting our programs.

A huge thank you to all who dined that night and to Duke's for their generosity and hospitality. The restaurant group donated 50% of food sales from the evening. Over \$2,400 was raised in relation to the event.



 **DINING** for
CHANGE



**CRAFT
&
CREW**
HOSPITALITY

Craft and Crew Hospitality has supported us in a variety of ways over the years. Restaurant and food truck dining packages have been featured in gala live auctions, they participated in a Chefs for Change evening, and Craft and Crew's Luke Derheim is a new board member and has volunteered for meal service Friday mornings for years. Thank you, Luke and the whole Craft and Crew team for all of your support!

Duke's
ON 7
— food & drink —

Gala 2021 at the Hilton Minneapolis



Please join us for our 22nd Annual Gala, as we come together to support the mission and vision of People Serving People. The evening will include dinner, auctions, and a program featuring our prevention work. For those unable to attend in-person, a virtual attendance option will be available.

More information to come.

Thank You Gala Sponsors



For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Sarah Williams.

 peopleservingpeople.org/events

 612-277-0219

 swilliams@peopleservingpeople.org

Volunteer Appreciation

We are so **THANKFUL** for all our wonderful volunteers. They make the work we do possible! Thank you for supporting our families and children!

We hope to welcome more volunteers back soon as the pandemic trajectory allows.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, contact **Tom Golembeck** at tgolembeck@peopleservingpeople.org or **612-277-0216**.



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. Make a big impact through manageable monthly gifts.

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.

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. If we are included in your estate plan, please let us know so we can thank you.



**We exist
to see families
thrive.**

Donate today at PeopleServingPeople.org/individual-donations
Questions? Contact Megan Kocer, Individual Giving Officer, mkocer@peopleservingpeople.org or 612-274-7727.



Lacek Group Donates

We are so grateful to our partner, the Lacek Group, and their team of staff who led a very successful toy and classroom supply drive in May! In only a couple of weeks, their staff donated almost \$1,500 in monetary donations and \$1,650 in supplies. These included art supplies for our creative learners, STEM items to build complex thinking, and stress relief toys to encourage concentration. Thank you, Lacek friends!

Think Small

Our Education Department was awarded a grant from Think Small. With this grant, they were able to re-imagine the indoor rec room space, adding open-ended large motor materials for the children to explore creative ways to move. This equipment arrived and was installed in the rec room and has been a big hit! Amiyah, a preschooler exclaimed, "This is awesome, I love it!!!" We are thankful and happy to offer new toys to help kids play, imagine, and get creative!



Board Member Updates

Help us welcome our new board members **Luke Derheim** and **Patricia Martin**. We look forward to their contributions and leadership.

Thank you to our four exiting board members for their service to People Serving People.

Daniel Gumnit, our former CEO, joined in 2012, **Jesse Bergland**, joined in 2017, **Guy Becker** joined in 2014, and **Michael Kremenak** joined in 2014. Your dedication and passion to help families experiencing homelessness in Minnesota are appreciated.



Luke Derheim



Patricia Martin



Daniel Gumnit



Jesse Bergland



Guy Becker



Michael Kremenak

On behalf of everyone at People Serving People, thank you for serving our organization and the community!



Cummins Continues to Amaze

All of us at People Serving People want to thank Cummins for their holistic partnership. Thanks to their generous support, our infant classroom got a makeover! We went from carpet to new wood flooring. This gentle surface is great for the children to walk around and play on!

Additionally, Cummins employees pooled their resources to provide a meal to the People Serving People staff. Our staff enjoyed a delicious lunch from Soul Bowl MN and took a moment to recharge. Thank you to all of our friends at Cummins!



3M Delivers

Thank you to 3M for their incredible generosity! They recently raised over \$1,770, which was used to purchase **59 humidifiers**! As a bonus, they delivered them to us.

With 3M's help families can enjoy a sense of normalcy within their rooms at the shelter. This donation will allow families to take a humidifier with them when they find housing.



Our programs are funded by generous donors such as you.

Thank you!