

{October - December 2006}

Project for Pride in Living
NEWSLETTER

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Commentary

- Steve Cramer

PPL is developing more housing units than ever before, at locations spread throughout the region.

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Family-to-Family Holiday Program

Make a significant impact in the life of a family in need this holiday season.

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Learning Center photos by
Chris Bohnhoff

PPL celebrates grand opening of the PPL Emma B. Howe Learning Center

Supporters, neighbors, local business and education leaders, and champions of digital inclusion come together to inaugurate a new community resource.

Program speakers included PPL Executive Director Steve Cramer, PPL's Capital Campaign Committee co-chair Dick McFarland, City of Minneapolis Economic Development Director Mike Christenson, and Digital Inclusion Task Force Coordinator Catherine Settanni.



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"We've made a professional, appealing space for people to get to work on their future. Enter the Learning Center and you'll find the right place to start. You'll also find help in taking your next steps toward gaining employment that will pay a living wage."

—Steve Studt, PPL Employment and Training director



2



3

"PPL's focus on using technology as a tool for empowerment and self-sufficiency provides a wonderful model that will continue to return benefits for community technology programs throughout the region. We congratulate PPL for their vision and hard work in making the Learning Center a reality!"

—Catherine Settanni, Digital Inclusion Task Force coordinator



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1. Steve Studt, PPL Employment and Training director, Lora Stone, Train to Work manager, Mike Christenson, City of Minneapolis Economic Development director.
2. Train to Work graduate speaking to guests at the grand opening.
3. Anne and Peter Heegaard, a member of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee.
4. Catherine Settanni, coordinator of the Digital Inclusion Task Force, speaking to guests.

Notes

— Steve Cramer, PPL executive director

PPL's current housing projects are many and varied — from providing permanent housing for homeless families to creating affordable options for first time buyers

On the eve of PPL's 35th anniversary year, it seems appropriate that our "pipeline" of affordable housing projects is bursting at the seams. Housing has been, and will remain, a core activity at PPL. It is the basis for the relationship developed with many families and individuals we go on to serve in other ways. And better housing stock, either newly constructed or renovated, is a key way to help neighborhoods improve.

The breadth and size of projects PPL takes on has increased dramatically over the years. Two developments set to be completed by the end of this year "bookend" this broader continuum of larger projects.

On the north side of Minneapolis, Camden Apartments will open in December, offering 23 highly affordable rental units targeting custodial fathers and their children. Camden Apartments will be supportive housing offered in partnership with Emerge, an affiliate of Pillsbury United Communities. Ten of the families will qualify as "chronically homeless," and all will be very low income.

In south Minneapolis, as part of the Midtown Exchange redevelopment, 57 units of ownership housing developed by PPL will come alive as the first buyers move in before Christmas. Midtown Exchange is proving a catalytic force for improvement along Lake Street, and PPL's project will add affordable ownership to the mix of uses there, including units completed in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and the City of Lakes Land Trust.

Other current housing initiatives include affordable ownership units now under construction in New Hope, redevelopment of an abandoned industrial site in southeast Minneapolis into a mixed-income community, and securing a site for new supportive housing in St. Paul (among many others).

As these initiatives demonstrate, PPL is working on many types of projects (see the opposite page), in varying stages of development, including more units than ever before, at locations spread throughout the region. Makes me want to take a breath! These varied projects have a few common elements worth mentioning.

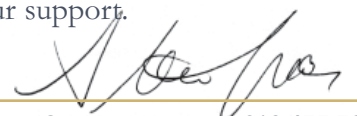
Speaking frankly, affordable housing is not the "hot button" political and public policy issue it was a few years ago. But the needs are still great, and the issue remains a key one from the standpoint of the mission of PPL.

- PPL's mission of helping people gain greater self-reliance is at the heart of each initiative.
- Each achieves an important housing goal – ranging from providing homeless families a permanent home to helping low-income, first time buyers gain their first "piece of the rock" – which the private housing market, on its own, won't accomplish.
- These projects require tremendous partnerships to leverage the private and public investments necessary for success.
- All our projects test the tenacity, perseverance and problem-solving skills of our staff—every time—and every time, the talented PPL staff passes.

Speaking frankly, affordable housing is not the "hot button" political and public policy issue it was a few years ago. But the needs are still great, and the issue remains a key one from the standpoint of the mission of PPL. Housing stability is a critical step on the path toward greater overall self-sufficiency.

As the year draws to an end, all the best during the holiday season.

As always, thank you for your support.



Housing opening this year: 80 units



Around the Globe is now around the corner!

LEFT: Midtown Exchange Condos on the Greenway is part of the Sears site redevelopment that also includes the Global Market, offices for Allina and a hotel. Midtown Exchange Condos feature 57 housing units of varied designs, starting at \$139,000 www.midtownexchangecondos.com

RIGHT: Camden Apartments in north Minneapolis is a newly constructed building with 23 highly affordable rental units targeting custodial fathers and their children.



Housing in development: 76 units

Comfort. Convenience. Community

LEFT: Linden Park Condominiums are now under construction in New Hope. Spacious one- and two-bedroom condos start at \$139,000. www.lindenparkcondominiums.com



ABOVE: The Van Cleve redevelopment design in southeast Minneapolis converts the buildings on the Bunge grain elevator site into both rental apartments and for sale units. The first building to be constructed (pictured above, right) will hold 35 units, eight for Cabrini Partnership, a local nonprofit providing sober, supportive housing.

The New PPL Learning Center



The PPL Emma B. Howe Learning Center is located in a remodeled PPL-owned building at the corner of Chicago and Franklin avenues in Minneapolis. Its design to increase public access to both training and technology for area residents seeking to improve their employability.

A custom rehab on the building's second floor features appropriate spaces for a Community Access Lab and classrooms for PPL's successful job training program, Train to Work, and the Health Career Partnership offices. At the ground level, remodeled retail space contributes to the continued renewal of the Franklin Avenue corridor.

Bridging the digital divide: PPL teams up with Community Technology Empowerment Project

The AmeriCorps Members staffing the Access Lab come to PPL through the Community Technology Empowerment Project (CTEP), a special project aimed at raising technology literacy and access throughout the metro area to help bridge the Digital Divide. Wide variances in computer literacy characterize the population of the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis, the largest and poorest geographic community in Minnesota. Our Learning Center AmeriCorps team and other volunteers will serve as job search coaches and teach basic computer skills to Access Lab visitors.

Learning Center is named for philanthropic donor

PPL named its new job-readiness training facility to honor a \$1 million award by the Emma B. Howe Memorial Foundation, a supporting organization of The Minneapolis Foundation. The gift was among the foundation's largest single grants to celebrate 20 years of charitable giving in the name of an unassuming community visionary, and it marked a long stride in the PPL capital campaign.



"I have gone through other programs, but this was the first one that helped me get a job."

— Train to Work graduate and featured speaker at the grand opening

Mission Moments

— from the Learning Center

Train to Work:

"I got my job as a CNA at Children's Hospital because of Train of Work. Now I've been accepted at Normandale and St. Catherine's Registered Nurse programs."

"I learned so much in such a small amount of time. The Train to Work teachings should be incorporated into secondary and post secondary education curriculums."

"I have been in other programs like this one, but this is the first one that actually helped me find employment."

Community Access Lab:

"I like that the workshop instructor had patience and humor."

"I don't fear computers anymore."

"I used the lab to search for employment and apply for jobs on line. I sent my resume through E-mail and was hired as an assistant manager at a new coffee shop downtown. I still use the Lab. It's quiet, I can get work done, and people are available to help."

"I found out about the Lab shortly after I lost my job. After I had been coming in almost daily to search for employment, I thought about using the downtime of being out of work to improve my job prospects. I thought I would get training in the area of electronic technology and computer repair. A volunteer in the Lab referred me to Dunwoody College and gave me information about financial aid. I applied, took a test, and was accepted."

Division News

Employment and Job Training

Graduates of PPL Industries' employment training, along with 16 current trainees, were asked to join Industries' strategic planning focus groups to provide feedback on the training program.

Classroom job readiness programs addresses a variety of fields

Train to Work, PPL's flagship job-readiness program, continues to expand its reach in teaching soft skills like resume writing and interview techniques, and offering job-shadowing at employment sites.

- A new class was designed for people interested in employment with U.S. Bank. Graduates of the first session all received callbacks for interviews. News of job offers is pending.
- An increase in clerical training is planned for 2007, to support needs of new employer partners Allina Commons, Educational Credit Management Corporation and Metropolitan Health Plan.
- Classes for adults living in PPL properties on Minneapolis' north side are proving popular: the program recently celebrated a second graduation

CPR training and certification is now offered at the Learning Center.

Human Services

Parents and students like PPL's academic enrichment program

Parent response to the PPL Scholars program, held every day after school at Partnership Academy, has been much stronger than expected. Fifty children signed on for mentors and help with homework, approximately one fourth of total school enrollment.

Three PPL Scholars and three PPL Leaders groups meet twice a week at sites in St. Louis Park, New Hope and in the PPL Service Center. Our College House PPL Scholars program works with over 40 children at two locations in south Minneapolis.

AmeriCorps improves community outreach

Two new AmeriCorps Members are working as Community Organizers with PPL residents in St. Louis Park, New Hope and Minneapolis. They have spent a great deal of time meeting families.

Recent community-building efforts have included:

- a Get Out the Vote campaign
- hosting safety meetings for residents, along with local Crime Prevention Specialist officers, to address safety issues that come up during the winter months
- a Fall Festival presented with Youth Development, including games for the kids and a raffle for donated Target Card for adults
- Volunteer Lawyers Network will conduct classes in Financial Planning and Homeownership for residents November and December.

PPL-sponsored charter school makes the grade

State test scores released in November 15, 2006 show Partnership Academy making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The measurement is for the No Child Left Behind (NCLB), which ensures all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. Low performing schools are identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring.

Affordable Housing

New City Partnership with Home Depot Foundation to Strengthen North Minneapolis Neighborhoods

The Home Depot Foundation recently joined in a new partnership with the City of Minneapolis, The Hawthorne Area Community Council, The Family Housing Fund, Tree Trust and PPL to improve housing in the Hawthorn neighborhood.

The Foundation made a \$500,000 investment into the Northside Home Fund (NHF), a collaborative effort of public, private and community-based organizations dedicated to strengthening north Minneapolis communities by enhancing their housing stock.

The Home Depot Foundation's grant will go toward housing in Hawthorne neighborhood in need of rehabilitation, green space development, and urban reforestation. Hawthorne Council chose PPL as its development partner.

Unique NFL/Community Partnership Awards \$200,000 to Minneapolis Parade Stadium

Early this fall, Vikings players gathered with youth athletes and community leaders at Parade Stadium on Kenwood Parkway in Minneapolis to celebrate a grant to refurbish the stadium. Groups involved include NFL Charities Youth Football Fund, Minnesota Vikings, Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board, Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) and PPL, which is acting as the grant administrator.

Thank You Donors August 16- October 31, 2006

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Building Communities of Support

A breakfast gathering at The Minneapolis Club this fall that focused on the way PPL Builds Communities of Support and to raise money drew 150 people.

Three program participants were featured in the program along with keynote speaker former Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton.

Voyager Bank
David Wagner
Wesley Walker
Jayne Waller
David & Ruth Waterbury
Constance Waterous
Wayzata Community Church
Marlys Weber
Tim & Nathalie Welch
Douglas & Beverly Westby
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Wheelock Whitney & Kathleen Blatz
Lori-Anne Williams
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Michael & Martha Wilson
John & Renata Winsor Fund of The
Minneapolis Foundation
Ralph Wuest
Xcel Energy Foundation
Phyllis Wagner & Jack Yarger
Richard & Thelma Yurek
Wendy Zins

In Honor of

IN HONOR OF JEFF & LUCY HEEGAARD

Malcolm & Wendy McLean

IN HONOR OF BOB & ELLEN JARVIS' 80TH BIRTHDAYS

Tim & Nathalie Welch

IN HONOR OF DICK & JOYCE MCFARLAND'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

John & Janice Gray

Peter & Stacey Stahl

IN HONOR OF JIM AND DEE STRATTON'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Tracy Barnhart

Robert & Delores Chapman

Robert & Margaret Keene

Suzanne Nystrom

Tom & Helen Stoen

Mary Stratton

Marlys Weber

IN HONOR OF SY & JANET TURBES

Elizabeth McCambridge

In Memory of

IN MEMORY OF LENARD JONES

Karen Jones

IN MEMORY OF NANCY LATTIMER

Susan Baldwin & Paul Svingen

IN MEMORY OF C. JON ROSENGREN

Reva Rosenbloom

IN MEMORY OF DR. FRED WUEST

Anonymous (3)

Janet Adams

Brenda Bant & Nona Berray

R. Charles Baron

James & Mary Bassett

Marilyn Bockley

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Lorraine Breitenbucher

Catherine Carlson
Creek Valley Social Fund
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Shirley P. Dierma & Carla Bahls
Pat & Jack Doherty
David & Mary Doty
Paul & Beverly Doyle
Anne Duff
James & Shirley Dunn
Ann Enderle
Marion Etwiler
John & Jeanne Exline
George & Myra Frenz
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Lisa Locken
Jacqueline Madden
Robert & Holly McDougall
Geraldine Mooers
Diane & Gerald Mundt
Connie Nelson
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Cabrini House
Carlson Companies, Inc.
Central Minnesota Legal Services
Covenant of Life World Outreach
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Randy Degarmo
Mark Dillion
Facility Options Group, Inc.

Thank you! Your gift is critical in our work with low-income men, women and children as they pursue a stable, self-sufficient future.

Please consider making a difference in our future work by including PPL as a beneficiary in your estate plans. This lasting tribute will allow PPL to serve low-income families for many years to come. Please contact Julie Brekke at 612-455-5207 or julie.brekke@ppl-inc.org.

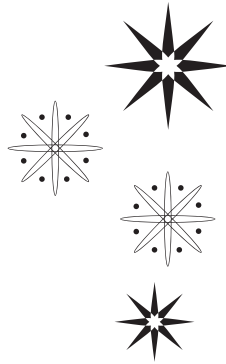
In Memoriam John Lee Clark



John volunteered at PPL SHOP for 15 years. A retired Honeywell engineer of 40 years, he was "Tech Support" when such a job description hardly existed. He taught staff and trainees about computers and assisted SHOP in implementing electronic point of sale and inventory systems. John understood the importance of education and training and worked with trainees on GED preparation. He is survived by wife and four children and several grandchildren.

Family Handyman
First Republic Title
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Freestyle Productions, Inc.
G.E. Capital Fleet Services
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Gibraltar Title
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Jim Lotter
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Billy Martin
Medtronic
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Martha Navarro
Karen Minshull
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Parameters
Parker Hughes Institute
RBC Tile & Stone
Kathy Reali
Ted Scheffelbein
Shamrock Properties
Target Corporation
Molly Thompson
Travelers Express/Money Gram
Trimodal
UBS Financial Services
Universal Direct
Van Clemis & Company
Waldorf Foundation
West Bay Capital, Inc.
Xcel Energy

You can help make the holidays brighter for a family in need



As the holiday season nears, the needs of our participant families seem almost overwhelming. Many families face a very tight budget as they work to find employment, stabilize housing, and increase self-sufficiency in a tough economic environment. You can help! The Family-to-Family Holiday Program gives you the opportunity to make a significant impact on the life of a family through the donation of gift certificates for the holidays. PPL's Self-Sufficiency Program nominates families based on



need and progress toward goals related to family stability.

For more information, contact Amanda Herbst at (612)455-5158 or amanda.herbst@ppl-inc.org

PPL's mission is to work with lower-income individuals and families to achieve greater self-sufficiency through housing, employment training, and support services.

PPL Results

In 2005:

PPL directly served nearly 7,700 people through our interconnected programs.

Affordable Housing & Community Development: Served 2,965 people.

PPL owns or manages more than 730 units of affordable rental housing offering on-site human services, and creates affordable housing through both new construction and renovation of existing homes.

Employment & Job Training:

Served 553 adults

PPL operates paid training programs through businesses and classroom instruction for adults dealing with multiple barriers to successful employment.

Human Services:

Served 4,165 adults and youth

Families, adults and children are assisted on a flexible, individualized basis in setting goals, finding resources and building skills necessary to be self-sufficient.

923 volunteers contributed 38,878 hours, valued at \$682,309.

The PPL newsletter is published four times a year. If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, or be removed from the mailing list, please contact ppl@ppl-inc.org or call 612-455-5210.

PPL

Project for Pride in Living

1035 East Franklin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55404-2920
612-455-5100 FAX 612-455-5101
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