

# Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation Newsletter

400 Selby Avenue Suite C  
St. Paul, MN 55102

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## ***Volunteer-powered Programs at Liberty Plaza***

Brothers Abdul and Ahmed walk with their father down the hall to our new Liberty Plaza homework center. Dad wants to make sure the boys are in the right place.

Volunteer tutors from the community are

waiting there (along with a healthy snack). Today, Abdul, a second grader and English Language Learner, has reading and math homework. Abdul chooses to do his reading first. Abdul reads a story aloud to the tutor; the tutor helps him sound out words he doesn't yet recognize. They read the story together two times. Then Abdul writes answers to questions about the story. He gets them all correct. Abdul takes a snack break; then math- Abdul has word problems to solve and grouping numbers by one's, tens, and hundreds. Today's homework mission accomplished!



Volunteer tutor helps student complete homework assignment

News of the new homework center has traveled quickly through the community, and after the first two weeks up to 28 students of all ages (including adults) were stopping in for homework assistance each day.

The homework center is one of three new volunteer-powered after school programs at Liberty Plaza that were launched this Fall to complement our PLUS-Time and Youth VOICE programs. Now, in addition to homework tutoring, students in grades K-3 can work with a reading tutor using the myON Reader, an 8,000 book online library, to improve their reading proficiency, and kids in grades K-5 can learn Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts in an exciting, hands-on program provided by volunteers from St. Catherine University that are undergraduate education majors.

A fourth volunteer-powered program assists teens and helps teens and young adults prepare for and access the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce. Our AmeriCorps Community Technology Empowerment Project (CTEP) Specialist, provides digital literacy and personal skills development training as well as hands-on assistance to find, get, and keep a job.

***You Can Support Success  
for Youth at Liberty Plaza***



Kids and adult volunteers visit a horse ranch.

We invite you to be part of this dynamic, volunteer-powered Liberty Plaza. Visit Liberty Plaza at 290 Arundel Street in St. Paul, and see our programs for yourself. Call ahead so we can be prepared to show you around: (651) 224-5303 extension 6.

If you are inspired by what you see, make a pledge of time as a volunteer and/or make a financial donation to support our work.

If you plan to give on Give to the Max Day, November 12, please include TCHDC on your donate-to list.

To donate through GiveMN, go to our website [www.tchdc.org](http://www.tchdc.org), click on the GiveMN icon on the home page, and you will be taken to the TCHDC donation page. You may also send contributions directly to TCHDC: 400 Selby Avenue, Suite C, St. Paul, MN 55102.

For another story about exciting activities at Liberty Plaza, Please read on.

Thank you for your support.

## Kids Cast Long Shadows at Summer Arts Camp



In August, the well-known professional artist collaborative, BareBones Productions, led over 45 children at Liberty Plaza through an action-packed ten day creative arts experience with the theme-Shadows of Indonesia. The children learned about the stories of ancient Java, the arts of shadow puppetry and Gamelan, a traditional ancient musical style. Then they wrote and their own shadow play, built their own shadow puppets, and put on a final performance with Gamelan accompaniment.



During the performance Nadia shows off her puppet as she awaits her cue.

In a second project, a BareBones hallmark activity, children as young as 5 learned to walk on stilts. They then used saws and drills, hammers and wrenches, to build their own stilts, which were theirs to keep when camp ended. On the last day of camp they paraded around the Liberty community on their stilts. Now, when weather permits, we schedule stilting days when kids can bring their stilts out and practice under staff supervision.



Kids tower above PLUS-Time staff member, Madeline.