

Twin Cities Housing Development Corporation Newsletter

400 Selby Avenue Suite C
St. Paul, MN 55102

November 7, 2014

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Here's How You Can Help...



Concordia U. Student helps children with homework in PLUS-Time

Over the past 3 months we've published four newsletters to catch you up with the exciting and important work TCHDC is doing to create new and preserve existing affordable housing and to provide on-site programs and supportive services for children and adults who live in our housing communities. Programs and services at Liberty Plaza and Calibre Ridge:

- Support academic success for children served by our afterschool and summer enrichment programs.
- Provide working parents and caregivers with peace of mind for the whereabouts and safety of their children after school.
- Open doors for adult residents to access employment, training, and economic advancement.
- Ignite brighter futures for families striving to move forward.

Here's how you can help sustain our work- You may make a contribution by sending a check to TCHDC, 400 Selby Avenue, Suite C, St. Paul, MN 55102. OR

If you'd like to donate electronically today, simply click on the link to our website (above left); Click again on the

GiveMN logo on the home page, and you will be taken to TCHDC's page on the GiveMN website. OR

This Thursday November, 13 participate in the 24 hour Give to the Max Day event, the biggest annual one day non-profit fundraising event in Minnesota. It is an opportunity to give to all of your favorite causes at once. Again, go to the TCHDC website (www.tchdc.org) on the 13th and click on the Give MN logo.

In whichever manner you choose to support us and whatever amount you contribute, your contribution is greatly appreciated and will be put to the service of our work in a manner that honors both the people we serve and your intentions.

Some examples of what your contribution will do:

- \$70 supports a child for one month of after school programming.
- \$90 sponsors a child at a one week STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) camp.
- \$130 sponsors a STEM class for 20 children.
- \$150 purchases a digital tablet to access an online library that promotes reading proficiency.

For more TCHDC news. please continue reading below.
Thank you.

Youth VOICE Senior Fellow Profile

Hamline University's McVay Youth Partnership (Youth-VOICE) has been operating in collaboration with TCHDC at Liberty Plaza since 2005. Youth-VOICE is a program that facilitates relationships between youth in middle and high school and college students from Hamline University. The primary focus for Youth-VOICE at Liberty Plaza has been relationship building; they work towards this every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between 3:30pm and 6:00pm. If you enter their space on a programming day, at first glance, you may see a game of silent ball, students playing a game of spoons, folks cooking up a new dish, or the creation of homemade play dough goop. While these activities are fun they also give those involved the opportunity to make real connections with one another.

Samrawit G. has been involved with Youth-VOICE at Liberty Plaza since 2007. She first came to the program as a 6th grader looking to get homework help and for a space to have fun with friends. She participated with Youth-VOICE even during high school, when she found time, and served as a leader for the younger participants. Upon graduation from high school Samrawit went to Saint Paul College to

tackle her general courses. After her time at St. Paul College she applied and was accepted into Hamline University.

Samrawit now serves as the Senior Fellow for Youth-VOICE at Liberty Plaza. Her goals for the year include boosting attendance numbers, improving on the quality of programming, teaching youth new things, helping youth experience new and different cultures, and continuing to build meaningful and lasting relationships.

Good programs are able to make connections with participants. Good programs also need effective staff to really achieve success. Samrawit's leadership and desire to work at Liberty Plaza with Youth-VOICE exemplifies the value of the program. We are glad to have Samrawit here at Liberty Plaza and are excited to see where she takes the program this year!

National Night Out Becomes a Youth Community Service Project



Community service helpers- Abdi, Sitra, and Cecylia



Liberty Plaza celebrated National Night Out on August 5 from 6 to 8PM. The parking lot became a wide open playground for over 100 children. Parents and kids perused the information being offered by the Girl Scouts, Goodwill-Easter Seals, the Saint Paul Public Library, and the Hamline-McVay Youth VOICE Program. The Saint Paul Police and Firefighters livened up the event with demonstrations. The children kept asking when the police would arrive, and after making the rounds of many NNO events, pulled in with their mounted patrol trailer at 7:50 to a dwindled but enthusiastic group that waited until the end. The kids petted and fed hay to the horses.

A big highlight of the event worth sharing was a bit behind the scenes. A group of youth arrived and spontaneously pitched in to help set up, clean up, and serve snacks to the children throughout the event. This was truly in the spirit of the evening, and the youth, Abdi, Cecylia, Hussein, Parker, and Samara, deserve to be recognized for their selfless, community focused efforts.