

HIP HIP HOORAY! WE HAD A WONDERFUL DAY (WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS):

This year Neighborhood House was saddened to lose a dear friend, Captain Bill Bower of the Padelford Packet Boat Company who was a participant as a child and grew to become an invaluable supporter. In his memory, Neighborhood House teamed with the Padelford Packet Boat Company and Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation to set sail on the Party Barge, an event celebrating his life and supporting an annual fund in his name.

Bower was an iconic figure in Saint Paul. He grew up on the West Side during the depression and like so many, he was a fixture at Neighborhood House in his early life. "When we kids weren't working, we hung out at the Neighborhood House," he wrote in his memoir, *Ol' Man River*, "We played games, we wrestled – we did everything down there at the Neighborhood House."

Bower may have come from humble beginnings but became a successful businessman and never forgot his roots, giving back to the community where he was raised. He started shining shoes at the age of 12, went on to become a decorated World War II Veteran, and

then founded the Padelford Packet Boat Company in 1969. Shortly after, he treated Neighborhood House children to annual boat rides down the Mississippi River, an unmatched experience for children whose families could not afford such leisurely activities.

"Bill is a perfect example of how Neighborhood House programs impact lives. We help instill confidence in young people and provide necessary skills to succeed as adults," said Armando Camacho, Neighborhood House

President, "When Bill achieved his goals as an adult he was able to give back to the very community that helped him as a child. He will be dearly missed." Bower sadly passed away in 2010 at the age of 90.

In his memory, Neighborhood House established the Bill Bower Annual Fund during a fundraising event celebrating his life. The event garnered over 400 guests and raised an amazing \$40,000 in just one night, thanks to a matching grant from the Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation. Guests set sail for an evening river ride on the Betsey Northrup, a boat

generously donated by The Padelford Packing Boat Company. The fund will support Neighborhood House programs.

If you would like to donate to the Bill Bower Annual Fund, please contact Director of Development, Susan Rostkoski, 651-789-2521 or srostkoski@neighb.org To learn more about the Padelford Packing Boat Company, please visit their website www.riverrides.com or call 1-800-543-3908.



Neighborhood House™

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Have a Neighborhood House Event Experience

Looking for a fresh, new location for your next meeting or event? Neighborhood House provides a unique, customizable experience unlike any other venue. Simply rent a room or combine your room rental with a volunteer, team-building activity, like stocking food shelves for the hungry or helping cultivate the garden. Interested? For more information, please visit www.wellstonecenter.com



Developing Skills, Knowledge & Confidence to Thrive in Diverse Communities

WHAT'S YOUR GIVING STYLE DURING THE GIVING SEASON?

Everyone has their own way of giving and there are so many ways to give. Weather you choose to contribute money or time, you are a valuable part of our organization and we thank you.

This holiday season, we invite you to think about your giving options. If you have volunteered in the past, perhaps you would consider making a monetary donation this holiday season. It is the perfect time to make a directed gift by simply writing down the name of the program that interests you in the subject line of your check or just leave it blank to share your generosity across the organization.

If you are currently volunteering and want to try something new or if you have never volunteered but want to get involved, there is no time like the present. Register to receive our monthly volunteer e-newsletter, *N-Volved*, and find out about one-time and ongoing opportunities, like these: Morning and Evening Childcare, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Asian Pacific Islander Community Health Education and College Access.

We are diverse in every area of what we do, including our volunteer opportunities so if you have an interest and don't see it listed here or on our website, it might still exist. Contact

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Developing Skills, Knowledge & Confidence to Thrive in Diverse Communities

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LEADERSHIP SAINT PAUL ENJOYS THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE EXPERIENCE AT THE WELLSTONE CENTER

Leadership Saint Paul is a community leadership program through the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce that engages and prepares emerging and existing leaders to strengthen the Saint Paul/East Metro area.

This fall, they joined forces with Neighborhood House's award winning Adult Education program, which helps adult learners develop the skills and tools necessary to overcome their barriers to finding and keeping stable employment, housing, education, and healthcare, all critical steps on the path toward economic self-reliance. The group met at the Neighborhood House main campus, The Wellstone Center, a contemporary 93,000 square foot facility with twenty meeting and event spaces available for rent.

Beginning and intermediate Adult Education students spent one-half-hour reading books with members of Leadership Saint Paul, who learned about the students' hardships and determination to improve their English skills. "We really enjoyed our experience," said Stephanie Austin, Director of Education and Foundation for the Saint Paul Area Chamber

of Commerce, who organized the event with Neighborhood House Volunteer Coordinator, Riley Karbon. "Connecting volunteer opportunities at Neighborhood House with renting event space at The Wellstone Center is an initiative called The Neighborhood House Experience," explained Karbon.

The Wellstone Center staff can work with the event host to create packages that include volunteer and community service offerings for guests, themed events and more, all in an effort to offer a unique event. When an individual or

organization selects The Neighborhood House Experience at The Wellstone Center for a meeting or event, they are supporting the work of helping break the cycle of poverty.

To learn more about The Neighborhood House Experience at The Wellstone Center, please visit www.wellstonecenter.com or contact Riley Karbon to learn about volunteer opportunities, rkarbon@neighb.org or 651-789-3626.



THE VIEW FROM HERE IS BRIGHT, WITH THANKS:

A Year in Review from the Desk of Armando Camacho, Neighborhood House President

The view from my office window reminds me that another year is coming to an end and a new year is soon to begin. The wind blows leaves from trees while children bundled in winter coats play chase. Inside is warm and filled with holiday cheer. Staff talks about ongoing and essential food drives for our food shelf during the holiday season; participants share multicultural holiday traditions from around the globe in new English; and, volunteers gather coats from their own offices for the families whose children are running outside as I write this to you. I think back on the year that is passing, its many challenges and overwhelming joys, and the great excitement for what is ahead.

MAP for Nonprofits, recognizing nonprofits who are using technology in inspiring, effective and creative ways.

In July when people across the state faced hardship during the government shutdown, Neighborhood House was no exception. We felt immediate concern for the families we serve. In an effort to minimize impact on our participants, we connected participants and community partners with medical, rental, employment and childcare assistance during the Emergency Community Resource Fair at The Wellstone Center. Our contemporary 93,000 square foot facility was home to countless meetings and events throughout

the year. We spearheaded the West Side Reunion, an all-day event celebrating the memories and experiences of Neighborhood

House from the past to the present. We also celebrated the memory of Captain Bill Bowell on the Party Barge, a fundraising event to establish an annual fund in his name and raised the roof during Revel for a Cause, our annual fundraiser at Barrio in Lowertown. With the warm months behind us, we are now gearing up for important work ahead.

The holidays are a difficult time for so many of our families. While we have enjoyed many celebrations this year, we are not through the hard winter yet. With your help, we will help well over 10,000 people this year, feed families not only during the holidays, but also on ordinary days. We will put coats on the backs of school children and send them to school with necessary supplies. We will teach their parents to read and write English, use computers, obtain work, secure housing and break the cycle of poverty in our shared community.

Thank you for your support.



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REBEL ROUSERS UNITE AT REVEL WITH A CAUSE: A PARTY BENEFITTING NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

This year's annual fundraiser, Revel with a Cause: A Party Benefiting Neighborhood House, garnered over 300 guests to revel, regale, raise the roof and... repeat! A one-of-a-kind cocktail party supporting improving the lives of Neighborhood House participants offered guests a fluid evening of amazing food, delicious drinks and wonderful entertainment. The event raised over \$90,000 (and counting) through individual donations and corporate sponsorship, to assist in sustaining Neighborhood House's mission of helping people, families and organizations develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to thrive in diverse communities, since 1897.

Guests enjoyed unique activities like the "Bottle Walk," a cake walk for adults (but

instead of winning sweet treats, guests took home favorite wines and spirits). Bids were placed during both live and silent auctions for unbelievable packages like a Minnesota Twins Batting Practice Buddy Experience with signed Bert Blyleven baseball; and, a Behind the Scenes tour of the Science Museum including never displayed items. The evening showcased scrumptious foods from south of the border, including El Burrito Mercado's roasted corn and some of Barrio's own divine delicacies.

Were you a guest? Tell us about your experience as a Rebel Rouser and what you would like to see at next year's event. Email mkarl@neighb.org to volunteer your ideas, gifts, or services for another great fundraiser yet to come!