December 13–22, 2013
IN THE HEART OF THE BEAST PUPPET AND MASK THEATRE
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“Between the Worlds
Poetry and Politics in our back yard see pages 4 and 6

38 years of The Alley Newspaper and counting!
Alley Communications, publisher of The Alley Newspaper, held its annual meeting on Friday, Nov. 16, at St. Paul’s Assembly Hall in the Phillips Community. But, just like in years past, this was not what one would expect from an annual meeting of an organization. No bylaws were negotiated, no board seats were contested, no organizational meeting was held. Just a chance to get together and visit and have a good time.

38 years of The Alley see page 5

Still Time in 2013 to Support 2014
For those who missed the Alley Media Social in November, please know that it is not too late to donate! Help The Alley Newspaper move into its 39th year. If you enjoy this paper, it is up to YOU to help it to continue. $5 pays for a year of monthly issues for YOU! $10.00 covers you and a neighbor! Make your check to Alley Communications, and mail to: PO Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55407. THANKS!

“if more politicians knew poetry, and
more poets knew politics, i am convinced
the world would be a little better place in
which to live.”
– John F. Kennedy, May 29, 1917 -
November 22, 1963

“A good head and a good heart are always
a formidable combination.”
– Madiba Nelson Mandela, July 18, 1918 -
December 5, 2013

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programs at the franklin library

Franklin Community Library
1324 4th Ave, Suite A
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www.hclib.org/pub/ info/newsvroom/

running Wolf Fitness Center

Running Wolf Fitness Center
CLOSED Management by Clinics ends Dec 31st
Call Harvey

To the Community, since 2010, the Running Wolf Fitness Center has operated as a program of the Native American Community Clinic and the Indian Health Board. It was under their management that Running Wolf moved into the Phillips Community Center. Recently because of capital expenditures and financial restrictions the two clinics will no longer manage Running Wolf. The last day of operations at the Phillips Community Center will be Friday, December 20, 2013. The Minneapolis American Indian Center is working on assuming management of Running Wolf and is actively seeking funding to cover the operating costs as one if its programs at the Center. Running Wolf will be temporarily closed until this funding is secured.

Minneapolis American Indian Center and Al Olson, the Millie Lacs Urban Special Projects Coordinator along with other community members are working to keep this valuable asset local and affordable to all members of Phillips Neighborhood.

We thank the community for their support and patience through this time of transition for Running Wolf Fitness Center.

Sincerely,
Indian Health Board
Native American Community Clinic

Phipps West Neighborhood Upcoming Events

www.phillipswestinfo.com

December 5th (Thursday)
6:00 to 7:30 p.m. - Phipps West Holiday Community Meeting in Honor of Vice City Council Member Robert Ligilien. Please join us for a festive Holiday Community Meeting to Celebrate & Thank Robert Ligilien for the past 12 years of Public Service! All who live in Phillips West or support the Phillips West Neighborhood are welcome to attend! Celebration will take place at Lutheran Social Services, Phipps West Neighborhood Center. Can you save the date now?

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By Naomi Mohammed, Banyan, Community Coordinator

“Naomi’s Corner” just got bigger. Many of you will recognize a familiar face but in a new location. My name is Naomi Mohammed. I grew up in Phillips and have raised my five kids here as well. My name is Naomi Mohammed. I grew up in Phillips and have raised my five kids here as well.

In my new position as Community Coordinator with Banyan, I’ve had the opportunity to contribute to the growing Lighthouse Network (LHN) program. LHN promotes community and safety throughout Phillips Neighborhood, teaching neighbors how to collaborate and take action with community building through block clubs. By acting as a resource for developing relationships between neighbors, I’ve been able to witness neighbors from all across the Phillips coming together to help each other out by addressing needs of housing, crime, and even natural disaster related issues.

When heavy storms hit earlier this summer, a tree fell across a neighbor’s yard, partially blocking the street. She discovered it, to her dismay, on the morning of her birthday. A few phone calls later and a team assembled in her front yard, composed entirely of neighbors and their family and friends. Within a few hours, the tree was reduced to a long pile of wood on her boulevard and the yard was cleared by people within a four block area in the Phillips neighbor-hood. This is just one example of the community benefits we reap through our LHN sows along with our efforts to cooperate and reach out to each other. The unity we experience that promotes our collective security is the harvest of our work together.

There are also health benefits to being part of community. It changes neighbors into friends, friends who look out for one another, who send a card if you’re not feeling well or share their garden crop with you. Having a block club allows you to make those connections. National Night Out is a great example of people coming together. Each block party has its own feel but the idea is to start making those connections with your neighbors, to form a tradition amongst those on your block, something unique that you can all share and anticipate eagerly each summer.

If you are interested in more information about the Banyan or joining the Lighthouse Network, please contact me at naomi@banyancommunity.com or 612 722 8512; stop by (2647 Bloomington Ave.) or look Banyan up on the web: www.banyancommunity.org. See you in the neighborhood!

Joe Schumann found an old Bible including a note that said “Will you keep the number of Hilmar’s grave in case we should lose tract of it. Eugene lost the one we had before. I gave him one so in case he loses it I’ve got one and so have you and as they may grade that part where he lays so if they take that marker I put there sometime ago we got the number of it. So take care of it.” The Bible was a wedding gift to Rachel and her husband John from her parents almost exactly 100 years ago. They were married on December 22, 1913. Rachel was Hilmar’s younger sister. Their last name was Evanson. Their parents, Edwin and Caroline Evanson, had at least seven children. The three oldest, including Hilmar, were born in Norway. Rachel was the first to be born in Minnesota.

Hilmar Evanson died in the Thomas Hospital on November 7, 1913. The Thomas Hospital was built to serve people suffering from tuberculosis in 1907 by an organization associated with the Lutheran church known as the United Church Hospital Association (UCHA). The hospital was located on the West Bank on the site of what later became known as Fairview Hospital. Hilmar Evanson spent two months in Thomas Hospital before he died at the age of 29 years, six months and 13 days old. Earlier, when he had been healthy enough to work, he was employed as a machinist for the J. L. Onans Company.

Hilmar married Dorothy Hansen on March 2, 1905. It was a double wedding. Hilmar’s brother Eugene married Mary Hansen (possibly Dorothy’s sister) the same day. Dorothy was only 16 years old. She survived Hilmar although she, too, died young. She died in the Thomas Hospital on December 17, 1915, when she was 26 years, 4 months and 19 days old.

Whoever wrote the letter needed to worry. We know where Hilmar is buried. He’s in Lot 40, Block E. We also know where Dorothy is buried. She is in an adjoining section of the cemetery in Lot 36, Block G.

Shortly after they were married, John and Rachel Kieppe moved to Iowa and farmed. They had one daughter, Mildred. John Kieppe died in 1931 and is buried in the graveyard of the First Lutheran Church in Osian, Iowa. Rachel returned to Minneapolis after her husband died.
BY HARVEY WINJE

Kristin Tillotson, a Star Tribune writer, began an otherwise laudatory snippet Friday, November 1, 2013, about the “Juntos Crecernos”/“Together We Grow” mural at Bloomington Avenue and Lake Street with a biased cultural slam that exposed more about her than about that corner or this community.

The insult to scores of stores, a theatre, a museum, and residents and customers is overwhelming and merits an apology.

dee henry williams quick retort November 2 on KFAI “Great Blend of Watercolors” was “drop the “B.” Right On, dee! Kristin, DROP the “B” from clouding your vision and see the Light in the Community.

*Grand Deeva! brings “Great Blend of Watercolors”. She slams Blues, Southern R&B, Old Skool, Jazz and a hint of Gospel, interviews and mo’ fun! Listen every Saturday from 6:00–9:00 A.M. on KFAI for the best in music from the diaspora and beyond.

Who has been the Light For Us? Tell your “Light” story, See “Lighted” 15th Avenue Bridge

BY PATRICK CABELO HANUEL

Winter has been the time for humans to reflect on darkness, and seek the light. Almost every culture and religion has winter celebrations that revolve around light, from Hanukkah to Santa Lucia to Kwanzaa to Solstice and Christmas. There is something about lighting a candle or a bonfire on a cold winter night that gives joy. We are also lights that bring joy in the midst of darkness—whether that darkness be illness or racism or violence or loneliness. We are light, and we can be light to others.

As part of its work building the Phillips Avenue of the Arts, St. Paul’s Church on 15th Avenue is gathering stories of light, which will be shared throughout the season. We are asking our neighbors to reflect on these two questions:

• Who has been the light for you in your life?
• How have they been light?

It may be an ancestor, teacher or mentor. It may be a poet or artist or leader from the past or the present that has inspired you. It may be someone well known, or known only to you. Take a moment to write a reflection and send it to us. And look for literal light installations during the celebrations of Christmas at St. Paul’s, including La Posada on December 21, starting at 3 pm. We will be “relighting” the bridge on 15th Avenue to celebrate its opening up our beautiful avenue.

Send your reflections to stpaulscreate@gmail.com, or if you prefer to mail them, send them to: St. Paul’s Lutheran, 2742 15th Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55407. Deadline is December 19. For more information, call 612-724-3862 or e-mail: stpaulscreate@gmail.com.

POET POETS

BY ROY MCBRIDE

Angry asinine poets poet!
Brave bold poets poet!
Crude careless poets poet!
Delicate delightful poets poet!
Elegant egotistical poets poet!
Fragrant flowering poets poet!
Happy happening poets poet!
Intelligent indulgent poets poet!
Judicious juvenile poets poet!
Kind kin poets poet!
Language loving poets poet!
Moving mountains poets poet!
Naturally nutty poets poet!
Poem! O poets! Poem! O poets! O poets! Poem!
Quiet quizzical poets poet!
Roaring rowdy poets poet!
Sullen sad poets poet!
Timid torrential poets poet!
Usurious underground poets poet!
Valiant visionary poets poet!
Wicked wacky poets poet!
Wiry wiry poets poet!
Youthful yelling poets poet!
Zealous zooming poets poet!

Clarasophia Gust

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.” — John F. Kennedy

If you are a resident or a worker in Phillips Community, you are an owner of this valuable media source. Help it to thrive. Contribute your time or dollars.
nizational policy tensions were permeating the air! Instead, over 75 people gathered from various political persuasions and cultural groups to celebrate 38 years of this community-governed media source, The Alley Newspaper! This year’s event involved a huge, used book sale with volumes of nonfiction and fiction books donated for the event. Over $1,300 was raised to continue the work of this vital and vibrant community organization.

Delicious food was provided by the Backyard Initiative’s Growing the Backyard CHAT and over a dozen performers offered their services to help us celebrate. These performers included:

• Dave Moore, Phillips’ resident cartoonist and Wendell Phillips enthusiast

• Carlos Zuniga, Ecuadorian folk singer and guitarist

• Amed Yusef, Nomadic Expressions- Somali Spoken Word artist

• Patrick Cabello Hanel, co-pastor of St. Paul’s, poet and community activist

• Sue Hunter Weir, Friends of the Cemetery and writer of over 100 tales of Pioneer and Soldiers Cemetery

• Siena, community resident and African and reggae musician

The evening’s entertainment was moderated by Loren Niemi, E.D. of In the Heart of the Beast Theatre.

A terrific time was had by all. If you would like to be part of Alley Communications or would like to play an active role in The Alley Newspaper, call Harvey Winje, 612-990-4022 or email editor@alleynews.org. Hope to see you at next year’s event!

Please join us in thanking our monthly and regular advertisers who help to make it possible for The Alley Newspaper to appear in your favorite newstand or on your doorstep each month.

THANKS for making it possible!

Monthly Advertisers:

• Ingebretsen’s

• Maria’s Café

• May Day Café

• Midtown Global Market

• Seward Co-op Grocery

• Welina Hardware

• Ventura Village

Quarterly & Annual Advertisers:

• Portico-HealthNet

• East Phillips Improvement Coalition

• Phillips West Neighborhood Organization

Collaborations with Organizations

In 2013, Alley Communications began to more intentionally partner with community organizations to help those organizations to spread the word about their organizations or activities. This collaboration required both Alley Communications and the partnering organization to work through how to best represent their issues in their own words, resolve differences of opinions and to appreciate the value of mutual benefit. To date, those collaborations include:

• Back Yard Initiative: a contract that utilizes the Alley Newspaper Back Page to represent the work of the DIY.

• East Phillips Cultural Community Center and East Phillips Sports Council and Mpls. Park and Recreation Board: Alley Communications is a member of the partnership and, thus, can utilize free space for meetings.

• 2013 May Day Parade and Festival: The Alley Newspaper helped to promote the financial plea of In the Heart of the Beast Theatre to produce this spectacular annual pageant.

• Phillips Aquatic Center: The Alley Newspaper helped these organizations navigate a way to present their various design/program ideas: East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC), Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Association, Inc. (MPNIAI), Phillips West Improvement Association (PWNO), Venture Village Neighborhood (IVV), Minneapolis Swiss, Inc.

• Phillips Green-Clean Sweep: Comprised of many people and organizations where The Alley is listed in promotional materials including the T-shirts: EPIC, MPNIAI, PWNO, IVV, and Little Earth of United Tribes

• Pioneer and Soldiers Cemetery: Over 100 stories have by been written and published in The Alley about the oldest cemetery in Minneapolis thanks to the Friends of the Cemetery.

Public Service Announcements

Newspapers have always been able to offer free public service announcements enabled through their profit. Even though Alley Communications does not have that type of high revenue, it does, nonetheless, publish a large amount of announcements completely free. This helps us to fulfill The Alley’s mission to “inform and engage”. The additional hope is that organizations that benefit will help Alley Communications with other in-kind contributions or will contribute to our PAID ADVERTISING base as they become able to do so. Here is the list of organizations or activities who received “free” advertising space in 2013.

American Clinic

American Indian Day

American Swedish Institute

Arbor Day Celebration

Green Tomato Cook Off

Haitian Unity Night

Holy Rosary Festival

Midtown Greenway Coalition

Minneapolis Bridging Festival

MN Literacy Council

Mississippi River Walk 2013

Mount Olive Church Concert

National Night Out

Open Eye Theatre

Our Savior’s Church Concert

Phillips West Winter Festival

Running Wolf Fitness Center

Indian Health Board and Native Americans

…”Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future. And we are all mortal.” – John F. Kennedy

Still time to make a Tax Deductible Gift to Alley Communications!

Alley Communications, in spite of being a “free,” public media source, does not have the opportunity to do annual pledge drives nor can we afford to do huge mailings. The Annual Gathering time of year is our time to take stock in what we have accomplished, plan for the future and ask for the financial support to fulfill the activities coming from our mission.

Every dollar helps in two ways: It provides needed income and it gives us a huge, moral boost. Please make a contribution of any size, TODAY! Visit GiveMN or make your check to Alley Communications, and mail to: PO Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55407.

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS, WRITERS, VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRIBUTORS FOR YOUR ANOTHER YEAR OF THE ALLEY.

We give a HUGE THANKS to the hundreds of people who have donated time and talent in writing, drawing, and volunteering. We could not put out this mighty community paper without YOU! 30 to 50 people are involved in the content of each issue plus 20 volunteers who help with delivery and many businesses that have news stand space.

We also wish to give a HUGE THANKS to our individual financial donors thus far in 2013:

• Linda Berglin

• Kevin Fitzpatrick

• Sue Hunter Weir

• Ingebretsen’s Gift Shop

• Mary Ellen Kaluz

• Joyce Krook

• Mary Ellen Kaluz

• Joyce Krook

• Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Association Inc.

• Jonathan & Amy Miller

• Leon Oman

• Carl and Helen Peterson

• Phillips West Neighborhood Organization

• Sandy Spierer

• Cathy Strobel

• Jane Thomson

• Ventura Village

15 Anonymous Donations and cash contributions collected at the Alley Media Social Nov. 16, 2013.

If we missed your name, please accept our apologies and let us know. Or, if you would like to add your name by making a donation, visit GiveMN or make your check to Alley Communications, and mail to: PO Box 7006, Mpls., MN 55407. We thank you.
Dallas Buyers Club

Dallas Buyers Club (2013) ★★★★★

Focus Features. Drama

Cast: Matthew McConaughey (Ron Woodroof), Jared Leto (Rayon), Jennifer Garner (Dr. Eve Saks), Dallas Roberts (David Wayne), Steve Zahn (Tucker), Griffin Dunne (Dr. Vass). Running time: 117 minutes. Director: Jean-Marc Vallée.

Back in the early 1980s when the AIDS disease "first" struck, it is a death sentence for almost everyone contracting AIDS. Matthew McConaughey's Ron Woodroof is a Texas electrician/rodeo cowboy living a risky lifestyle of illicit sex, drugs and partying but in 1985 after what seems to be a brief illness he's told by his doctors he's HIV-positive at age 35. At first Woodroof rejects the news casting it as a disease of homosexuals. Woodroof is rabidly homophobic and makes it known to all concerned. He continues, for a while, to drink, snort cocaine, and have sex with women he picks up at the bars.

Woodroof has a transition: he wants to live at all cost. As the movie goes along, the tough Texan becomes a campaigner for better and safer drugs rather than the toxic ATZ often making many of the users of the drug sicker after using ATZ. Woodroof meets a lively transvestite Rayon (Jared Leto) in the hospital who eventually work together to acquire drugs that are better to combat HIV/AIDS even if it means using drugs not approved by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Doctor Eve Saks (Jennifer Garner) is in Woodroof's corner far beyond the normal duties as a doctor. (McConaughey shed 50 pounds for the role.) (Jared Leto sheds 30 pounds to play Rayon.) Woodroof already has proven the doctors wrong by living longer than the 30 days they have predicted. Soon hundreds of people are seeking Woodroof and Rayon for the large quantities of drugs are available from Mexico.

Matthew McConaughey has been on a roll as of late: "The Lincoln Lawyer" (2011), "Bernie" (2011), "Killer Joe" (2011), "Mud" (2012), "Magic Mike" (2012) and now, "Dallas Buyers Club" (2013). At Oscar time, McConaughey should be nominated as actor in a leading role; Jared Leto should be nominated as actor in a supporting role. I note that McConaughey's character is based on a real man's struggle with AIDS.

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La Posada: December 21, 3 pm
Christmas Eve: Carol Singing at Bloomington & Lake, 4 pm Christmas Day: Worship at 9 am.

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Call 612-724-3862 for more info

The Alley Newspaper • December 2013
declared that hate speech has no place in this country. Six-Pro-Howls (Joey Browner) invoked his indigenous aspect while condemning the sentence of Native youth. Our new Mayor Betsy Hodges was warmly received, as seen especially in the smiles of young women.

Each marching step was to constitute a prayer. As the mass moved slowly at the start, I determined to keep up. In my case, certainly each step would count twice. Do the people who descended over thousands of years upon this land want to be “honored” as mascots and logos? No. So do I, and that should be the end of it.

My aching joints made it as far as Chicago Avenue. Then, while walking back east on Franklin Avenue, a second marching contingent approached from the American Indian Center. For one exhilarating moment, it seemed the march I’d just left had circled the globe!

To be sure, this neighborhood is a special place. We are then essentially obligated to stand with First Nations people. Next time around, will at least the able-bodied among us answer the call?

Clyde’s voice was amplified. “Warrior Woman” Betty McCollum issued a call to protest. Happily, my resolve to participate prevailed over the forces of inertia. When I arrived a tad late, the crowd had already formed outside the Redaways. The scent of burning sage united our spirits as the combined radiance of flesh dispersed the cold.

The Red Word

PETER MOLENAAR

Raise Your Voice

The good news is: My left hip joint is, at long last, scheduled to be replaced. However, the day the Washington “Redskins” came to town, I was in some serious pain after laboring eight hours behind the grinding wheel. To make matters worse, it was a cold day and evidently the barometric pressure was low. But, neighbors, the indigenous core of our community had issued a call to protest.

My resolve to participate prevailed over the forces of inertia. When I arrived a tad late, the crowd had already formed outside the Ancient Traders Market. The scent of burning sage united our spirits as the combined radiance of flesh dispersed the cold. There was no pain felt by being there. Clyde’s voice was amplified. “Warrior Woman” Betty McCollum issued a call to protest. Happily, my resolve to participate prevailed over the forces of inertia. When I arrived a tad late, the crowd had already formed outside the Ancient Traders Market. The scent of burning sage united our spirits as the combined radiance of flesh dispersed the cold. There was no pain felt by being there.

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Frank Reflections

Star Tribune’s Ethnic Distortion

BY FRANK ERICKSON

The Somali population Minnesota does not even come close to 1% of the state’s entire population, so how can so few people create so many negative front page stories in the Star Tribune?

Is the Star Tribune aware that they are handling our local Somali community in a racist manner, treating the whole the whole Somali community as if it is a terrorist organization? Sensationalizing one “terror” story after another, all this to sell newspapers to the 95% white majority in our state. And in doing this, our daily newspaper is endangering and destabilizing the Somali community, backing them into a corner.

Even if a Minnesotan was connected to the massacre in Kenya… that would be one individual connected to it, not the entire Somali community. A community cannot commit crimes, only individuals can. The way the tribune handles this, they work hard at this.

Yet local Somalis will bow down to racial profiling and as a community will come forward, hold a press conference to “denounce” the violence in Kenya, even though they had nothing to do with it…their response is a response driven by racism.

I saw no sense of urgency from the local white community during the summer of 2012, to hold a press conference, to separate them from, and “denounce” the mass-killing of members of the Somali community in Wisconsin by a white male. Yet every time there is a “terror” situation, local Somalis are expected to start their denouncing of it.

White terrorists are always acting alone. East African terrorists are always representing their family, town, community, religion, skin color, or country. They never get to represent just themselves as white terrorists do.

The September 29th, 2013 Sunday Star Tribune had another “exclusive” “terror” story about our Somali Community.

This front page story had a large photo of two young Somali men, who had no connection to the Kenya massacre, yet the Tribune put a photo of the Kenya mall massacre right below the photo of these two men. The Tribune figured out a way to connect them, they work hard at this. The Tribune is good for business.

“We” obsess and concern ourselves with a very small threat of a terrorist attack, because it may have us in the crosshairs. Why does the Tribune even bother with stuff like “Al-Shabab is a Threat in Minnesota” after the U.S. government killed over 100,000 people in Iraq from a “war” of nothingness?

South Hennepin County DFLSC

BY ELIZABETH YOUNG

The South Hennepin County DFL Senior Caucus will meet again at a new time, the third Thursday of the month from 12:30 p.m.-2 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 19th, at our regular location, a private room at Maria’s Café, 113 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis. All are welcome to join us. Lunch is on your own. Pick from the menu.

Our speaker this time is Jeanne Massey, who will discuss the results of ranked choice voting in the city elections. Also on the agenda is the formalization of our chapter as a member of the DFL Senior Caucus. Julianne Johnston and Earl Bower will handle that process.

Transportation is available via metro buses #2, 99, and #14. For further information, contact Elizabeth Young at liz11238@gmail.com or 612-845-5059.

www.alleynews.org

The Alley Newspaper • December 2013

“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.” – John F. Kennedy
Backyard Initiative TEENS Project

CARL LOBLEY, MEMBER OF THE TEENS PROJECT

We are honored to have this opportunity to formally introduce ourselves to the general public on the BYI Back Page as the official youth organization known as the TEENS Project of the Allina Backyard Initiative. This is the first of many accomplishments we have achieved as we progress into the New Year.

Our mission is simply this: “The persistent pursuit of positive progression through the growth/development of youth leaders who can effectively represent the new demeanor and mindset affiliated with healthy living”. We believe this swagger will promote a healthy state of physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being while also instilling a sense of financial independence, balance, harmony, and connectedness within and amongst many systems.

We are currently in the process of developing effective strategic partnerships and business models with the wisdom, guidance and support of our incubator organization, the Cultural Wellness Center. We are assisting the Cultural Wellness Center in the revitalization of one of its many traditions by attempting to create a safe and welcoming training system that would aid in developing a team-work environment that we believe to be a good way to demonstrate dedication to the mission.

Another accomplishment we are extremely proud to announce is that we have begun conversations with two other BYI CHAT teams: Communications and Growing the Backyard. Both are working closely with the TEENS Project leadership to create replicable, recurring work opportunities so that teens can have some form of income while developing their strong leadership skills. Then teens can implement their Rights of Passage (ROP) approved entrepreneur business models that will promote a self-reliant community that has unleashed the power to heal itself by supporting these businesses and business owners who contribute in developing these models.

We here at the TEENS Project hope and believe that as we boldly brave our way into the 2014 year with the strategic support and collaboration of various social systems, business owners, and BYI chat teams, we can, and will, sculpt this new lifestyle image to be extremely desirable, obtainable, maintainable, and immutable throughout the community. Thank you.

Alley Media Social: Success Through Collaboration!

Members from the BYI Teens Project work BYI Growing the Backyard CHAT to prep food for the Alley Media Social.

The Alley Media Social, the Annual Gathering of the Alley Communications, nonprofit, community-governed publisher of The Alley Newspaper, was held Friday, Nov. 16. A great time was had by the 75 or so folks who attended activities. A highlight of the night’s success was the result of the ongoing collaboration of Alley Communications and the Backyard Initiative.

Several key collaborators from the Backyard Initiative took part in the evening’s activities and helped the evening demonstrate the amazing talents and resources that exist within the community. The Backyard Initiative’s (BYI) Growing the Backyard CHAT catered the wonderful food for the night’s events. Members of the BYI’s Teen Project were hired by Growing the Backyard CHAT to help with the food preparation. Amged Yusef, the local business leader and head of the BYI Project S.E.L.F. CHAT were one of the very special performers for that night.

The contact people lead members of the BYI Communications CHAT, Harvey Winje and Susan Gust, are also volunteers with Alley Communications and assist in the production of The Alley Newspaper each month. This partnership between the BYI Communications CHAT and Alley Communications has helped to deepen and broaden The Alley’s mission to “inform and engage”. The purpose of the BYI Communications CHAT is “work to lessen or eliminate the divide between people who have information and those who don’t so that everyone has the opportunity to be engaged in a healthy community”.

In the words of Phillips neighbor and Alley supporter, Jana Mergel: “thanks for all the spoken word, music, food. Fabulous nite! How blest we are to live here amongst all this talent, wit, wher, intelligence and spirit of social justice!”

If you would like to learn more about the BYI Communications CHAT or to get involved, please call Susan Gust, 612-724-5753 or email sgustausc@aol.com.

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PNC FOOTCARE CLINIC
Last Wednesday of the Month