



VENTURA VILLAGE

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Community Inreach: Add Your Voice!

By: Kala Hotakainen, Our Saviour's Community Services

Our Saviour's Community Services and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church are working together on an intentional process to engage our community and listen to our neighbors' hopes and dreams for the area. In addition to building relationships within the community, we hope to gather your ideas for the next stage of our property reimagining project.

We are co-located on Chicago Avenue, between E. 22nd Street and 24th Street. On this block, you'll find the church, permanent supportive housing units, our emergency shelter, our food shelf, the English Learning Center, and more. We'd love to hear what other spaces or resources you would like to see on our block!

If you'd like to connect with us and be part of our community conversations, please contact Robin@oscs-mn.org.



The 4 Sisters Farmers Market in the parking lot of the Pow Wow Grounds Coffee shop at 1414 E. Franklin will be kicking off the 2023 season on Thursday, June 1st. It will be open every Thursday 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM through October 26th. The opening day will include live music, a raffle, and new vendors! *By: Destiny Jones*

What Are Your Gifts?

By: Kali Pliego

On Wednesday, April 26th, I hosted a Block Leader Network Workshop at East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center. I asked the attendees to come prepared to tell me and each other what gifts they can offer to their blocks and neighborhoods. Within the framework of Asset Based Community Development, this question "What are your gifts?" is divided into three parts.

- What are the gifts of your head? (Knowledge, expertise, etc.)
- What are the gifts of your hands? (Skills, hobbies, etc.)
- What are the gifts of your heart? (Passions, advocacy, etc.)

The listing of all the gifts we shared filled up a poster paper! There is a richness in breadth and depth of interests, skills, and passions within our community!

I encourage every block, neighborhood association, community-based organization, or however you define your neighbor community, to survey the gifts represented in and by your people. The list you come up with will be a starting point for how you think about building upon these gifts, or assets, to develop a community where people feel valued and a sense of belonging.

What other assets are in our community? What businesses, parks, schools, faith institutions, agencies, non-profits would you include in an Asset Directory for the four Phillips neighborhoods (Ventura Village, East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, Phillips West)? Send me referrals with contact information for my collection, which will become a hardcopy directory soon!

Keep an eye out for the next Block Leader Network Workshop coming in July. Send me a note if you want to be on the invite list. Kali.pliego@minneapolismn.gov

For a deeper dive into Asset Based Community Development, visit <https://resources.depaul.edu/abcd-institute>

Ventura Village News

- **Join us at our June general membership meeting**, Wednesday, June 14th at 7:00 PM. Our committees will meet Thursday, June 29th at 5:30 PM. Both meetings are held at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue, and also be accessible via Zoom.
- **Our Neighborhood Association has been alarmed** at the way Minneapolis has been rewriting its zoning ordinances as part of its 2040 plan. Many of the changes it is proposing will bring us back to the problems and conditions our neighborhood and others close to downtown had a generation ago. Go to our website for more information about our concerns. We would appreciate your comments also!
- **Need tools, soil, seeds, or ideas for projects** in your yard or garden? Contact our website for help. We can also help you find space to grow some vegetables or flowers if you don't have room but still want to garden.
- **Events happening in June include Block Club Parties** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1901 Portland Avenue, Friday, June 16th at 5:00 PM, and at the Pentagon Highrise, 1415 E. 22nd St., Friday, June 30th at 4:00 PM.
- **Hope Community invites you to help out** every Tuesday, 4 PM - 7 PM at their community garden at 1900 Portland Avenue.