



VENTURA VILLAGE

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Our Saviour's Shelter Reopening Celebrated

More than 80 supporters met on July 17th to celebrate the expansion of Our Saviour's Housing Emergency Shelter at 2219 Chicago Avenue. Construction on the project began last December. The shelter continued to operate using facilities at the former Ebenezer Care Center at 2545 Portland Avenue.

The project is not finished yet. Interior work is still to be completed and the move back from Portland is just starting. The newly renovated and expanded facility will accommodate 38 residents instead of 21. Plans to operate the larger space and provide the services needed are being developed.

At the celebration tours of the new shelter were given. Guest speakers included a former resident who credited his stay at Our Saviour's with making a difference in his life. If you are interested in helping the move back to the new shelter or learning more about their expansion contact oscs-mn.org/shelter expansion.



Neighborhood Youth Practicing Soccer

Our Neighborhood Association has formed partnerships with different community organizations as part of our outreach to Ventura Village. Over the years we have helped support neighborhood youth soccer teams. We help them rent soccer fields in neighborhood parks and purchase supplies for the teams.

For the past 2 seasons we have supported the Somali Community of Minnesota (SCM) and their youth organizations. Last year their boys teams played at East Phillips Park and during the winter their girls team played indoor at the University of Minnesota.

This year the boys teams are practicing at Elliot Park on their regulation artificial turf. SCM rents the field for 3 hours. 6 - 8 year olds practice first, then 9 - 12 year olds, and finally 13 - 14 year old players. About 100 youth currently participate and there is a waiting list. On Mondays they use the soccer field at Stewart Park.



Omar Iken is the director of the program and he currently has 2 assistants. Parents appreciate the opportunity for their children and often come to watch the practices. The teams also play in various tournaments. Their current practice schedule extends into the fall and Omar is looking for indoor winter opportunities.

Ventura Village News

- Our next committee meeting will be Thursday, August 28, at 5:30 PM. See our website for location. Our general membership meeting is cancelled.
- National Night Out is Tuesday, August 5th. Support your local neighborhood event!
- You're invited to Waite House's annual Health Fair, Wednesday, August 6th, 10 AM to 1 PM at the PCC parking lot. Events include health screenings, backpack and school supply giveaways, activities for families etc.
- There will also be a back-to-school event at Peavey Park, August 23rd, 5 PM to 8 PM. Free school supplies and sambusas.
- You can get free produce from Hope Communities gardens every Wednesday 4 to 6 PM at their parking lot at 611 E. Franklin.

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