



The Normandale House Log

July 2010

Edition 1

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"Where you can find us"

Normandale Housing Corporation
6100 Normandale Rd
952-929-1697
www.normluth.org

Contact Us

Rod Wooten
Executive Director
rod@normluth.org
952-693-8303

Val Pruitt
Resident Case Manager
valerie@normluth.org
612-872-4021 x 32/31

Phil Larson
Volunteer Coordinator
phil@normluth.org
952-994-7898

Announcing "The Normandale House Log"

Welcome to the first edition of The Normandale House Log. What is "House Log?" The House is an electronic newsletter from the Normandale Housing staff to keep Normandale Church members, families and the community informed about ministry news, programs and people we serve. (Normandale Housing owns and operates Normandale House, a transitional house for families seeking to transition from homelessness to independent, sustainable living. We also serve the families of four Elliot Avenue duplexes.)

The Normandale House Log will be distributed periodically when we have updated information. In the newsletter you will be able to read stories about happenings at and around Normandale House, be kept aware of upcoming events, get engaged in volunteer opportunities and receive guidance in making donations.

You've been asking us. . .



What is Reading Buddies? Who is involved?

Reading Buddies is a youth-run ministry filled with wonderful stories about buddies from Normandale House and Normandale Church who get together on Mondays during the school year for reading, fun and food. Normandale Church youth between the ages of 14 and 18 (9-12th graders) volunteer to spend time reading, engaging children in fun, group games and enjoying a meal with the children of Normandale House.



Volunteers and dedicated staff drive youngsters from Normandale House to Normandale Church for these events and for the meals, which are made possible by Steve Hanson, our Normandale Church Youth Director. Reading Buddies is a great experience for everyone involved.

Ninth grader Anna Schmiel who participated last school year writes:

Each of us Reading Buddies has developed a special friendship with our buddy. It is an amazing feeling, looking at your buddy grow during the year. Some start out shy and quiet, and by the end of the year have developed a confidence in themselves. My buddy, KC, is one of the sweetest kids I have ever known. He started out shy, and not talking. I vowed that I would get him to talk, and by the end of the year, he did! He has shown me that maybe you don't have to talk a lot, but you can still have more to say than anyone else.

Contact us with your thoughts, questions or to get added to the newsletter.

Another fond memory is when we took the kids to get Christmas presents for their parents. The things they bought them were hilarious. Two of the little girls, Cyna and Aysa, insisted that their mom would love a Barbie doll, until we finally convinced them to put it back. Instead, they picked out a two foot giant nutcracker, purple puff-ball scarf, and chocolate. Those two girls could always make me laugh. On the last day of Reading Buddies, we took the kids and their families to Snuffy's Malt Shop. Twenty some kids, countless milkshakes, and only one spill. Not bad. I think that that one spill represents the improvement everyone has made throughout the year, the kids and the Reading Buddies.

One of my greatest moments at Reading Buddies was at the end, with my buddy KC. The kids were allowed to pick two books to bring home with them, and KC picked the one we always read together. At that moment, I realized how much we have both influenced and helped each other. I can't wait until next year!

What do the buddies say when asked -

What do you like about Reading Buddies?

"Jill!!" (his reading buddy) - Akeem, age 8

"The buddies!" - KC, age 3

What was your favorite book last year?

"Goodnight Moon" Keeshan, age 3

"Firetruck" - Aysa, age 4

What was the most rewarding part about being a Reading Buddy?

"Reading Buddies is the best part of my week" - Jill, ninth grade

"It's a fun way to connect with the kids" - Riley, 7th grade

"Hanging out with the kids and sharing my childhood books with them" - Maitlin 12th grade

"Teaching the kids music" - Sun Bin, 9th grade

If you are interested in becoming a Reading Buddy, contact Steve Hanson, Youth Director, at steve@normluth.org. The commitment is 2 ½ hours on Monday evenings.

Normandale Church Seniors visit Normandale House

May 27, 2010, Normandale House team members were honored with a visit from 20 Normandale Church's seniors. The group included Fred Arndt who had not visited Normandale House since he participated in the initial work on the house over 12 years ago.

The tour began at the Global Market, an International food and product fair located on the main floor of the old Sears building on Lake Street. The international food at the Global Market was great, as always, Global Market staff also hosted a delightful tour, since this was a first visit for many seniors. After lunch, the seniors were given a tour of two apartment units; one at Normandale House and one at Elliot Avenue Homes. They were surprised to hear that 41 families have resurrected their lives by living at Normandale House since it first was made available.

The tour ended with a Q & A session in the Normandale Housing Corporation offices. All had fun and learned much about the ministry, our goals and what Normandale House needs to sustain its gifts to transitional families in the future. Fred Arndt summed up the visit by stating;

"A few families reportedly had problems after moving from the house but overall it seems to be worthwhile for Normandale to continue to support the program."

You are called . . . to give hope . . . and receive a blessing.



Give Hope is a campaign to raise awareness of homeless families living without shelter, a need to volunteer, and an opportunity to build relations between church and community. NHC seeks to raise \$50,000 in 2010 to ensure the long-term operations of our properties and programs. To date, Give Hope has had 39 members pledge/donate to our campaign and we have raised \$11,000.

There is still time for you to give. Please consider making a committed pledge to Give Hope and help us reach our goal. You may fulfill your pledge by picking up a pledge card and envelope from the church office. We would like to receive your committed pledges by August 30, 2010.

If you wish to learn more about Give Hope or Normandale House, contact Rod Wooten at 952-693-8303 or by email at rod@normluth.org.



Normandale Lutheran Church
6100 Normandale Rd
Edina, MN 55436

We are called . . .
to give hope . . .
and receive a blessing!

Please prayerfully consider Normandale Housing Corporation's (NHC) commitment to carry on Christ's work in the Phillips Neighborhood in 2010

<p>"CHAMPION" Pledge</p> <p>\$500 and above annually</p> <p>I Pledge \$ _____</p> <p>___ single ___ quarterly</p>	<p>"BENEFACTOR" Pledge</p> <p>\$240- \$499 annually</p> <p>I pledge \$ _____</p> <p>___ single ___ quarterly</p>	<p>"PATRON" Pledge</p> <p>\$120-\$239 annually</p> <p>I pledge \$ _____</p> <p>___ single ___ quarterly</p>	<p>"SINGLE" Pledge</p> <p>I pledge a one-time single pledge to Give Hope</p> <p>\$ _____</p>
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Please check the accuracy of all your entries. Make checks payable to: NLC/Give Hope. Thank you for investing in NHC.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Date _____

Please drop this form in the church office.

Our mission...

to assist, empower, and partner with families seeking transition from homelessness to independent living. Through a holistic model and partnerships we provide housing, support services, and education, and advocate for systemic change.