



## **A New HUB COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER for Ypsilanti Residents**

**Peace Neighborhood Center is currently investing \$2.5 million to re-develop an 8,000 square foot, 2.1 acre property in Ypsilanti Township** into a full-service community center designed to serve low to moderate income Ypsilanti residents, with a specific focus on those who live in three geographically isolated, underserved, and underinvested neighborhoods in Ypsilanti Township with low economic opportunity: Gault Village, Sugarbrook, and West Willow.

**Peace is working with Quinn Evans Architects and Phoenix Contractors, Inc. to transform and upgrade the 70-year old facility.** Both firms have a deep well of experience renovating and repurposing community spaces. Quinn Evans has been intentional in incorporating energy efficient sustainable equipment in the building's design—as well as ensuring that all spaces, exterior elevations, walkways, and entrance will be ADA accessible.

**Expected to open in early October, 2023, Peace's HUB Community Resource Center will host a range of community programs, services, and activities that will help strengthen the surrounding community** by addressing long-standing racial disparities in educational attainment, poverty, food insecurity, housing support, neighborhood security, and low economic opportunity.

**It's important to note that Peace is not seeking to duplicate existing services or bring an exact replica of Peace's Ann Arbor community center to a new community with its own history, outlook, and needs.** Rather, Peace will be partnering with community-based organizations who already serve Ypsilanti residents and do important work.

**Since Spring, 2022, Peace has been deeply immersed in an ongoing discovery phase,** connecting with Ypsilanti residents, elected officials, community leaders, and local agencies to better understand and identify:

- The specific needs and priorities of area residents;
- Current programs, gaps in services, and/or barriers to access; and
- Potential community partners.

**What we've learned has helped lay the groundwork for a new HUB Coalition of ten local agencies, who have pledged to work together to leverage organizational resources, relationships, and experience to serve Ypsilanti residents more effectively via an in-depth wraparound support model. Specifically, HUB Coalition partners have pledged to collectively:**

- Design and deliver an integrated portfolio of programs/services to meet area residents' needs;
- Provide greater and more equitable access to vital community resources and opportunities where residents live—which will alleviate the burden they currently face navigating a disparate network of programs and service providers, the majority of which are located in the City of Ypsilanti; and
- Engage the surrounding community to better understand residents' needs to foster an effective community-centered design and approach to program/service delivery.

**As the lead agency, Peace will leverage its 53 years of experience, organizational systems and infrastructure to help scale partner agency's programs/services in two important ways:**

- **Provide flexible programing & office space at the HUB Community Resource Center** to enable agencies to serve neighborhood residents closer to home—eliminating transportation and other access barriers; and
- **Provide the organizational infrastructure, technology, resources, and expertise to help smaller nonprofits build organizational capacity** —to be able to serve residents more holistically through a wraparound service model.



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### Our initial HUB Coalition Partners include:

- **Peace Neighborhood Center:** Case Management Services, Wellness Activities, Community Events and Activities, and range of community services/training at the HUB.
- **Food Gatherers:** Support for HUB’s full-service food pantry to expand access to a wider selection of produce, protein, and pantry staples in an area of Ypsilanti Township long regarded as a food desert.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** Easier access to housing support services; educational workshops; and training at the HUB—to help reduce housing & utility costs and boost energy efficiency.
- **FedUp Food Ministries:** Community meals; food-related skills training and services at HUB.
- **Friends In Deed:** Family Circles programming, mentorship, and training at HUB.
- **Community Family Life Center:** Academic support & enrichment programs for elementary students, mental health support, and community activities for neighborhood residents.
- **Educate Youth, Mentor-2-Youth, and Our Community Reads:** Academic support, mentorship, and enrichment activities for elementary, middle, and high-school students.
- **2 Marines:** mentorship, violence prevention, and training opportunities for males ages 13 - 21.

Peace also has plans to leverage community partnerships across Washtenaw County to provide additional resources, programs, and opportunities at the HUB. Agencies with whom we’ve had initial conversations include:

- **Michigan Works!Southeast:** Workforce training and employment opportunities
- **Student Advocacy Center:** Educational Support & Advocacy around students’ rights
- **Dispute Resolution Center:** Violence Prevention
- **My Brothers Keeper:** Violence Prevention / Mentorship for young black males
- **Local Health Care providers, including:** Washtenaw Community Health, Corner Health Center, Trinity Health, Molina Healthcare, Michigan Medicine: Educational workshops, community health clinics, etc.
- **Growing Hope:** Community Gardens / Workshops
- **We-the-People Co-Op:** Community Gardens for Seniors/ Training
- **Washtenaw County Master Gardeners:** Support for Community Gardens
- **University of Michigan, MSU Extension, and Eastern Michigan University:** onsite learning experiences, field trips, and workshops for K-12 youth.
- **U-M and Eastern Michigan Schools of Social Work:** Case Management and After-School Program Interns

To date, Peace has raised \$2.2 million to cover the HUB’s capital improvement costs from the following sources:

- \$ 700,000 State of Michigan Dept. Labor & Economic Opportunity Grant
- \$1,000,000 Yield Giving Open Call Grant
- \$ 288,000 Individual Donors
- \$ 129,460 Grants from local Community Groups and Foundations
- \$ 75,000 Corporate Sponsors

To realize Peace’s vision for the new HUB Community Resource Center, the agency is seeking to raise an additional \$270,000 to cover the remainder of the HUB’s Capital Improvement Costs, which include the build-out of the space, interior furniture, the building’s exterior signage, and security systems.