



United for what's next.

In a year of transitions, Pillsbury United Communities remained steadfast in its mission of co-creating enduring change toward a just society. Through our innovative programs and diverse neighborhood assets, we imagined a more equitable future and built it side-by-side with our community, as we have for more than a century.

In April, we welcomed Cinnamon Pelly as the new President and CEO, taking the reins from Adair Mosely who led the agency for five years. She brings to PUC a wealth of experience in community development, education, health and human services, philanthropy, and the arts.

Ms. Pelly began her tenure at PUC with a focus on the UNITED piece of our legacy. That means welcoming

the public back to our centers after years of disruptions. It means responding to critical needs as a team, from expanding food access to addressing urgent educational gaps. UNITED also means bringing the community together, as we did with some of the biggest celebrations in our history. And it means growing our capacity through new operational and data management systems that align everyone around the best information.

Ultimately, UNITED means investing in the people who make PUC work. In September, we brought nearly 100 of our amazing community builders together at our annual staff retreat. Powered by their skills, relationships, and passion, we're growing a more connected and vibrant community in 2024 and far beyond.

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"It's an honor to lead an agency that's impacted the lives of so many, for so many generations. Now we're building on our longtime strengths to make a bigger impact everywhere we work."

Cinnamon Pelly
President & CEO of Pillsbury
United Communities



About Pillsbury United Communities

Pillsbury United Communities (PUC) is one of Minnesota's most well-established and impactful organizations with more than 145 years of service. Our trusted network of neighborhood centers and innovative social enterprises serves the Camden, Cedar-Riverside, East Phillips, Near North, and Powderhorn neighborhoods of Minneapolis and an array of diverse communities across the State of Minnesota.

WHO WE SERVE

PUC serves the Black, Brown, Indigenous, immigrant, and working-class residents of Minneapolis striving to build better lives for their communities and families in spite of racism, poverty and other systemic barriers.

OUR MISSION

We are community builders co-creating enduring change toward a just society.

OUR VISION

We imagine thriving communities where every person has personal, social, and economic power.



Our Impact Areas

PEOPLE

Healthy, safe, and ready to thrive

PLACE

Welcoming participation, pride, and belonging

PROSPERITY

The power to learn, work, and own our future

POLICY

Promoting, protecting, and galvanizing the communities we serve

Our Locations & Affiliates

Neighborhood Centers (4)

EXECUTIVE OFFICE (EO)

3650 Fremont Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55412

BRIAN COYLE CENTER (BC)

420 S 15th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55454

OAK PARK CENTER (OP)

1701 Oak Park Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

PILLSBURY HOUSE + THEATRE (PHT)

3501 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55407

WAITE HOUSE CENTER (WH)

2323 11th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55404

Social Enterprises (7)

BREAKING ICE (BI)

3501 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55407

FULL CYCLE BIKE SHOP (FC)

3515 Chicago Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55407

KRSM RADIO (KR)

2323 11th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55404

NORTH MARKET (NM)

4414 N Humboldt Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55412

NORTH NEWS (NN)

1701 Oak Park Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55411

SISTERHOOD BOUTIQUE (SB)

2200 Riverside Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55454

JUSTICE BUILT COMMUNITIES (JBC)

Affiliates & Citywide Programs

LET EVERYONE ADVANCE WITH DIGNITY

OFFICE OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

TWIN CITIES COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER HUB

United for measurable impact

30,000+

neighbors served through direct services including 1:1 appointments, workshops, classes, targeted outreach, and community events

25,000+

individuals reached through PUC-authorized charter schools and our grocery store and theater

750+

neighbors participated in group workshops or classes

1,300 +

young adults and youth engaged in age-specific programming

120,000+

individuals reached through our radio station, newspaper, media partners, and social media

300+

seniors served through targeted programming

400+

artists, interns, and paid collaborators hired and engaged across programs



1. BRIAN COYLE "We Are Cedar-Riverside" workshops promote understanding between diverse cultures. See p.7 **CAMDEN** 2. OAK PARK Oak Park Center nourishes neighbors with twice monthly Free Produce Days. See p.6 **LOWRY AVE N** 3. NORTH MARKET North Market surges to become the go-to grocery store for the Northside. See p.8 **NEAR** 4. FULL CYCLE **NORTH** Full Cycle drives record sales while empowering local youth. See p.8 5. KRSM/ NORTH NEWS KRSM Radio and North News spark collaboration **CEDAR** across the local media landscape. See p.7 **RIVERSIDE** 6. PILLSBURY HOUSE + THEATRE PH+T builds momentum for its transformative next phase. See p.7 7. COYLE+WAITE Get-out-the-vote and benefits cliff work ensure **EAST PHILIPS** neighbors are heard in local elections. See p.9 55 8. WAITE HOUSE PUC rises to the community's most urgent SOUTH public health challenges. See p.6 **MPLS** 35TH AVE

FOOD ACCESS | COMMUNITY HEALTH | FAMILY STABILIZATION



Feeding community vitality.

This year our programs helped nourish and sustain our community in a big way, from food access to targeted health support. As rising costs strained families in 2023, we stepped up to put healthy, culturally relevant food within reach. That included more fresh community meals and expanding our popular free produce days at Oak Park Center in partnership with Second Harvest Heartland.

As health challenges in the community evolved, so did our response. New grants helped us engage with East African, Latine, and Black communities around substance use disorder, mental health, and opioid overdose prevention. Through our innovative community health worker program, we brought

hands-on support to hundreds of families, assisting with everything from healthcare navigation to transportation to managing chronic diseases.

Our Immigrant Women's Advocacy Program (IWAP) continued to provide safe space for East African women to share stories, find support, and make joyful connections—like the popular "Sheeko & Shah" (storytime and tea) sessions at Brian Coyle. And to promote active, healthy youth, we deepened our investment in youth athletics alongside partners like Cedar- Riverside Athletics and Enrichment. This year more than 300 young athletes participated each week. Go Coyle Royals!

Impact Data Highlights

1,200+

hours of wraparound support for 300+ community health clients 50,000+

free meals for 10,000+ families through cafés, food shelves, and produce days \$400,000+

distributed to customers at North Market via the discount produce program. 200+

survivors of domestic abuse/sexual violence received legal, housing, and social support



"Access to good food is the foundation of everything else.
Our programs make sure people have agency to choose the food they need."

Juan Pomoquiza Pomaquiza, Food Shelf Coordinator



A stage for joyful connections.

2023 was a year of celebration. Thousands gathered for PUC community events, from the return of Juneteenth commemorations at Oak Park Center to free public health fairs at Brian Coyle, Waite House, and North Market. At our "We Are Cedar Riverside" cultural immersion workshops, over 800 attendees learned from Native American, Oromo, and Somali neighbors, culminating in a multicultural meal that brought everyone to the table.

Pillsbury House + Theatre hosted its 2nd Inside Out Block party, where over 500 residents, artists, and local creative leaders convened to create and build community. In addition to producing award-winning mainstage plays by amazing local storytellers, this year PH+T launched plans for an arts and economic development hub in South Minneapolis. In Phase One, they acquired two adjacent parcels to expand the existing campus and opened a scenic workshop to train aspiring theater workers.

Our celebrations of community flowed into the airwaves as well as the streets. With 57 hours of original programming per week from 49 hosts, KRSM radio brought hyper-local stories and sounds to listeners across the Southside. In a boon for a grassroots media, KRSM and our North News community newspaper joined other local media outlets to signal boost, cross-promote, and amplify the voices of our community. Stay tuned.

Impact Data Highlights

8,250

people experienced art in their neighborhoods through Pillsbury House + Theatre 193

local artists, many
People of Color, found
support through our
arts programs, school
partnerships, fellowships,
& on-site programming

3,458

theatergoers experienced worldclass productions at our neighborhood theater. 10,200+

attendees at community events DJ'ed or hosted by KRSM Radio 98.9FM



"We are a unique microcosm of the world in the heart of our city. Our events are creating opportunities to celebrate the beauty of our differences instead of letting them divide us."

Amano Dube, Director of Brian Coyle Center

EDUCATION | CAREER + FUTURE READINESS | ECONOMIC MOBILITY



Paths of opportunity.

We stepped up our flagship youth, education, and workforce readiness programs to help more local people thrive with the opportunities ahead. Our Youth + Future Focus work guided 350 high school students to find success in post-secondary education and their first job, with one third gaining career experience as interns with PUC programs including Sisterhood Boutique, KRSM Radio, North News, Food Systems and Pillsbury House+Theatre. Through our Career Pathways program, youth aged 18-24 received intensive financial and social support to train for good-paying jobs in their areas of interest.

For thousands of K-12 learners, PUC's Office of Public Charter Schools continued to provide lifesaving educational experiences that serve diverse cultural and learning needs. This year the program's innovative approach to education and evaluation was featured at a national conference as a model for others nationwide.

Meanwhile, our social enterprises keep uplifting the local community. As Northside grocers including Aldi and Walmart closed in 2023, North Market remained an anchor for good food and good jobs on the Northside. The store saw the highest sales in its five-year history, with a third of revenue from fresh produce! It was also a boom year for Full Cycle, our Southside bike shop that provides job skills, a paycheck, and intensive support to unhoused youth.

Impact Data Highlights

\$118,000+

in total tuition and wage payments for 16 youth through Career Pathways

347

youth were supported through Youth + Future Focus, including 117 paid interns

1,055

youth served by Full Cycle staff and peer outreach apprentices, including 7 as employees

9,200+

students served by 18 innovative schools authorized by the Office of Public Charter Schools



"I never thought I would go to college, especially having a kid. I now see myself having a career and getting an education."

Casandra, Career Pathways Participant



Seeding systemic change.

2023 was a watershed year for PUC on the public policy front. We served as lead advocates or key supporters for eight successful bills this legislative session, helping to advance issues vital to our communities. Bills we supported include free K-12 school lunches, Drivers Licenses for All, Restore the Vote, and increased state funding for community health workers. We also helped secure direct appropriations for our Career Pathways and Office of Public Charter Schools' work.

We've long known the perils of the "Benefits Cliff," where community members lose access to vital public assistance with small changes in income. This year we took steps to change the policy by hosting focus groups and giving 59 community

members stipends to share their experiences. Those efforts are helping to inform long-term solutions with Hennepin County, with support from the Kresage Foundation.

This fall, we partnered with FairVote Minnesota to get out the vote in the run-up to the 2023 elections, reaching thousands of voters through door-knocking and phone banking. We also trained and coordinated new reporters for the Minneapolis chapter of Documenters. These paid reporters attend city, county, and school district meetings to help bring important issues to the public's attention. That's an investment in a more informed and empowered community.

Impact Data Highlights

59

new community reporters trained to cover public meetings, like school board meetings, through the Documenters Network 2,700+

people directly reached through our get out the vote campaigns 65

local residents shared their experience with the "benefits cliff" to impact county policy through a series of community meetings



"Our responsibility is to share what people might not know, get people involved, and equip them to advocate for the things they need."

Jovita Francisco Morales, Policy + Advocacy
Community Organizer



Each year, the Phyllis Colwell Award is given to two outstanding Pillsbury United staff members for exemplary performance and commitment to our mission. The \$1,500 award was established in 1977 in honor of a long-time PUC Board of Directors member and Board Chair. This year's awardees are Michelle Negrete, Youth and Future Focus Operations and Evaluation Manager, and Mohamud Igge, Community Development Operations Coordinator.



Michelle Negrete

Michelle is an incredibly kind, brilliant, and dedicated leader of youth work across the agency.

Described as a quiet hero, her infectious laughter, attention to detail, and dedication to this challenging work have inspired her colleagues over the years.



Mohamud Igge

Mohamud is a gifted, culturally savvy, and trusted multilingual staff member who sets a tone

of professionalism and respect at Coyle Center, where he manages the front desk. He loves his job and excels in his position in spite of the job's many difficult demands.

Congratulations to this year's awardees!

Our community builders

List reflects our staff members in 2023

Abdiqani Abdi
Deeq Abdi
Fowzia Abdullahi
Miski Abdulle
Ganga Acharya
Maje Adams
Hope Addison Allen
Zikki Adem
Carla Aguilar Torres
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Samantha Diaz
Kent Dilg
Amano Dube
Joe Eichele
Amira Eromosele
Claudia Errickson
Collette Fahey
Simone Fleurant
Annette Forsman
Luz Francisco
Jovita Francisco Morales
Rosa Francisco Morales



Our community builders continued...

Pomaquiza



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Mohamoud Igge

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Head of Operations

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Donaldson

Kate Christenson Kate Gordon Kate Havelin Katherine Dowd Katherine Grumstrup and Michael Bing Katherine Poindexter Kathleen Mckay Kathy Kater Kathy Sitzmann Katie Stone Keenan Lantz Kellie Gavin Kelly Kenley Kelsey Midthun Kenji Okumura Kenneth New Kenzie O'Keefe and Abbie Engelstad Kevin Parker Kim and Mark Pepper Krista Johnson Kristofer Fenlason LaCora Bradford Laila Sahir Larry and Catherine Heltemes

Laura and Luther

Salveson

Laura Ott Laurel Lapore Leah Kondes Leah Moss Lee Van Gundy Leigh Henning Leigh Jirges Len Sangui Lily Thiboutot Linda Madson Linda Ridlehuber Lindsay Benjamin Lori Wellman Louise Ziegler Lucas Erickson Lvnda J Dahl Mack Paschal **Madison Tomony** Maggie Bimbra Mahrous Kandil Mandy Ellerton Manya Jacobson Marcine King Margaret Cogelow Margaret Schally Margaret Sweeney Marquerita Tajibnapis Maria Kustritz Marianne Davis

Marilyn Lipschultz Marisa Bhargava Marjorie Lee Mark Dean Mark Rusch Marlin L Peterson Mary and Doug Logeland Mary Hopkins Mary Kokernot Mary McCallum Mary Murphy Mary Schoellman Maureen and David Engelhardt Meg Brady Megan Buness Melinda Emerson Michael and Sandra Brandt Michael Hegeman Michael Staab Mikisha Nation Mindy Lee Miriam Kelen Miski Abdulle Molly Henke Nancy Koski Nancy Lawroski

Nathaniel Bird **Nell Smith** Nick Zelle Noel Raymond and Amy Finch Pam Parker Pamela Scaia Patricia O'Brien Paul Mielke Paul Pribbenow Peggy Reinhardt Penny Houston Peter and Lucy Bernard Peter Fleck Phil Zietlow Philip Young Pramila Vasudevan Rachel Bartelt Gilbertson Rachel Larrea Rachel Sosnowchik Ray Conroe Richard L Brown Richard Stenberg Rob and Sue Wilkie Robert Becker Robert Winberg Roberta Pisa

Robyn Peterson

Roger Kapsner Rolf and Renata Scholtz Ronald and Rebecca Prasek Rosalind Nelson Ruthanne Heenan Sam Newberg Sandra McCloud Sara Glerum Sara Johnson Sarah Schneeberger Scott Grossbauer Scott Muskin Scott Van Wert and Lisa Albrecht Sean Gilbertson Seth Eberle Seymour J Gray Sharron Steinfeldt Sheila McGinley Shelley Carthen Watson Sonam Vashi Stephanie Djerf Stephanie Passarell Stephanie Steinwedel Stephen Jordan Steve and Julie Young-

Burns

Steve and Mary Flagg

Individual **Donors**

Steve Peterson

Steven and Melinda Lee

Vicky McMillan

McCarthy

William Kunin

Yvonne Olsen

Zach Garman

William Meland

William and Danette

Steven Vinge

Sue Gibson

Susan Beach

Susan McKelvey

Susan Schirber

Susana Dodge

Suzanne Doree

Swetha Pradeep

Teresa Bearrood

Terri Kaase

Terry Saario and Lee

Lynch

Theresa McDevitt

Thomas Bearrood and

Effie Zhou

Thomas Callaghan

Thomas Lundgren

Tim Schuster

Tommi Godwin

Tony Wagner

Tracey Maloney

Tracy McMillan

Tsega Tamene

Valerie O'Keefe

Vanessa Escamilla

Veronica Orellana Duran

Vicki Olson