

An invitation to bring healing and community change in response to tragedy

Making the Dream a Reality



Spring is here, which means construction on the Philando Castile Community Peace Garden is closer than ever! Stay tuned for more details as we narrow down a date to begin construction.



We are so grateful to have received $75,000 in funding from the Transformative Black-Led Movement Fund last month. We are ecstatic, as we are so close to starting construction on this beautiful green space
once the weather warms up.

We ask you to please keep spreading the word, as we are still far from our $500,000 goal that will allow for proper garden upkeep, long-term maintenance, teaching aids, and other community resources.



Falcon Heights City Council has approved an honorary name change to a 1.5 mile stretch of Larpenteur Avenue where the Philando Castile Peace Garden is located.

The decision came after the city posted an online survey to gauge interest, showing that the name change had the support of the community. The sign marking "Philando Castile Memorial Avenue" will be added to the street signs located on Larpenteur Avenue between Fulham St. and Fry St.



Philando's Friend Makes Change in MN House of Representatives

A friend of Philando Castile, John Thompson, continues to be an advocate for change as a Minnesota State Representative. Representative Thompson has authored a bill currently on the house floor aimed to address racial injustice and systemic racism in Minnesota.

Read more about the bill and follow along with HF 784 here.



One Family's Focus on Learning, Understanding and Giving

Tom Faust lives just four blocks away from where Philando Castile died at the hands of a police officer on Larpenteur Avenue in Falcon Heights. He moved there after it happened but was drawn to the site where the makeshift memorial, which would eventually become the Philando Castile Peace Garden, sprouted up. No matter what time of day or night that he walked past, Tom would see people sitting quietly, looking at the art pieces that were left in Philando's honor, reflecting, and memorializing.

Like a lot of people, Tom had begun to look more closely at racism, in general, and within himself. Last summer's protests reacting to George Floyd's murder made him think even deeper. His daughter, Megan Habbe, invited him to attend a course at her church on West 7th in St, Paul that addressed issues of poverty and racism in our communities. Megan also wrote a grant proposal for her church's outreach fund and secured $3,000 for the garden.

Since moving to Falcon Heights, Tom, a former Bachmann's employee and gardener, has been doing yard work for neighbors in need and rather than being paid, he asks that they make a donation to the Peace Garden or other nonprofit. This work also allows Tom to have crucial conversations about race and justice with some of his neighbors – something we all need to do more of.

In addition, Tom's brother, Patrick, president of Landscape Structures, realized the company was perfectly poised to help and has offered to design, build and install all of the park benches, saving the effort more than $65,000. This is a family that is dedicated to helping to bring about more knowledge, understanding, and hopefully real change to how we treat one another, and how we respond to issues of racism, justice, and healing.



Happy Women's History Month!

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