



# Phillips Partnership

safety-jobs-housing-infrastructure  
for the Phillips neighborhood

**Allina Health System**  
Gordon Sprenger,  
Executive Officer

**Children's Hospitals and Clinics**  
Brock Nelson, CEO

**Fannie Mae**  
Gloria Bostrom, Director,  
Minnesota Partnership Office

**Honeywell**  
Michael Bonsignore,  
Chairman and CEO

**Metropolitan Council**  
Ted Mondale, Chair

**The Minneapolis Foundation**  
Emmett Carson, President

**Norwest Bank**  
Jim Campbell,  
Chairman and CEO

**U.S. Bancorp**  
Jack Grundhofer,  
President and CEO

**City of Minneapolis**  
Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton

**Hennepin County**  
Commissioner Peter McLaughlin

**Co-Chairs**  
Michael Bonsignore  
Gordon Sprenger

**Counsel**  
Louis N. Smith  
Smith Parker, PLLP

**808 Colwell Building**  
123 North Third Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401  
(612) 344-1400  
Fax (612) 344-1550  
info@phillipspartnership.org  
www.phillipspartnership.org

# Update

DECEMBER 1999

## Governor Salutes Train to Work

Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura honored the Phillips Partnership's Train to Work (TTW) program for his weekly radio program on October 15. The Governor came to Abbott Northwestern Hospital to feature five TTW graduates on his statewide broadcast of "Lunch with the Governor."

### Courage and Self-Sufficiency

Ventura had nothing but praise for the TTW graduates. "Each of you has shown the courage and pride of taking the step to self-sufficiency," he said. The Governor said that the courage of TTW graduates would spread throughout the community. "When you are around confident, self-sufficient people," he said, "it's contagious."

The Phillips Partnership commenced TTW two years ago as a job training initiative for neighborhood residents. Working in partnership with Project for Pride in Living, Inc., TTW has now placed 170 graduates in permanent jobs at Abbott Northwestern and Children's Hospitals. Over 80% have stayed at these jobs or moved up through promotions, a remarkable number for programs placing individuals with a history of welfare dependency.

State Human Services Commissioner Michael O'Keefe also attended the radio broadcast, and cited TTW as a model program that reflected every individual's basic desire to succeed. "This (TTW) represents the vast majority of people on welfare—they want a chance (and) given a chance they'll work hard—



*Governor Jesse Ventura visits with TTW graduate Brenda Stevens on his weekly radio broadcast October 15.*

they want to better themselves," he said.

### Sharing real life stories

After spending twelve years on welfare, Trish Turner, a single mother of five children decided to enroll in the program. When asked what her life was like before TTW, the shy and slender Turner said, "I couldn't see a while back—I couldn't see, I thought it was hopeless." Turner reflected that she had had enough of that life, a life dependent on welfare, and with the help of TTW she now has a position within Allina Health Systems as a mail clerk. "I think it is a good life and now I'm happy," she told Ventura.

The Governor reflected with TTW graduates on his first job washing dishes at Mama D's restaurant in Minneapolis. "I learned then a very important lesson," he said, "which was to always be thinking about how one job can create opportunities for the next one."

Governor Ventura asked TTW grad Brenda Stevens, "What would you tell someone on welfare today?" Stevens replied

in simple, clear terms. "I would tell them that if they are looking to be productive," she began, "and if they want something good in their life—give the TTW program a chance. It made a big change in my life and I'm quite sure it can do the same for anyone else."

"There is opportunity out here," John Brown said, another graduate of the program. "You *Train to Work*...continued page 5

## inside

- 2 *Selvaggio Initiative—  
Reason to Stay*
- 3 *Portland Place  
New Home  
Residents Address  
I-35W Access*
- 4 *Police Offer Instant  
Lesson in Drug Arrest*
- 5 *Partnership Profile:  
Honeywell's Michael  
Bonsignore  
City Homes  
Construction*

# Housing

## Joseph Selvaggio Initiative—Reason to Stay

People often ask Scott Hicks why he lives in inner city Minneapolis. Why not move to the suburbs, they say. If you asked Scott Hicks this question five years ago he would say because he loves his home. If you ask Scott Hicks this question today, he will say because he loves his home **and** because of the Joseph Selvaggio Initiative.

### In Phillips for generations

Scott and his wife Desiree have lived at 2708 Chicago Avenue for many years. In fact, Scott purchased the home from his grandfather about 15 years ago, and the house has been in his family for over 40 years. The Hicks family has seen a lot of ups and downs in their neighborhood in that time. Scott has been involved in many committees and organizations charged with reducing crime or fixing up the Phillips neighborhood. Most of them, in his opinion, have not accomplished very much. Then in November of 1998, came the Phillips Partnership Joseph Selvaggio Initiative.

He reluctantly decided to join the JSI Advisory Committee to see what they had in mind for the neighborhood. In his opinion, the neighborhood has slowly seen improvements over the last few years, but the JSI Initiative began and gave a quick boost to efforts to improve the neighborhood. “I work a lot of hours and am very tired at the end of the day, but being a part of the JSI Advisory Committee is definitely worth my time,” reflects Scott. “They have done more in a year than any other program has ever done for the Phillips neighborhood.”

### A new reason for improvements

Scott and Desiree have made many improvements to the inside of their house over the years. They have replaced insulation, plumbing, and wiring, remodeled their bathroom and laid new carpet. They never had any interest before, however, in doing any exterior improvements. “My thinking was why should I even try to improve the exterior of my home when the neighborhood is so bad,” said Scott. “We had a lot of traffic going through our property and serious problems with drug dealing, trash and vandalism. We were disgusted with our neighborhood so we just lived inside our home.”

Then came the Exterior Improvements Program for the JSI Initiative. Scott and Desiree decided to use their \$7500 grant to install a wrought iron fence around their yard. They had some money left over after the fence was installed so they did some edging in their yard. They have noticed other homes in the neighborhood using the exterior improvement grants to fix up their homes too. “The work people are doing is contagious,” Scott said. “Along with the fencing, we decided to use our own money to build a retaining wall, put in flower beds and shrubs, and install a new patio. We would like to remodel our porch in the future too.”

Desiree said that the fence they installed has given them a sense of freedom. “We no longer have people walking through our yard and we feel safer now. With two teenage daughters this is important.” The fence has also cut down on the trash in their yard.



### Before and After:

*The Chicago Avenue home of Scott and Desiree Hicks. Their JSI exterior improvement grant paid for the new fence, and inspired the Hicks to invest their own funds in other landscaping.*

JSI Landscape Architect Bob Close noted that the Hicks’ new fence harkens back to the historic gardens in Phillips a century ago. “Wrought iron is an example of high quality materials that were used consistently then,” said Close. “This type of visible front yard improvement can really start to give the neighborhood a new, but classic look.”

### In for the long haul

What do Scott and Desiree think now about their future in Phillips? “My house has always been structurally sound and has

a great deal of character,” said Scott. “They don’t make houses like this anymore. In the past, these were the only reasons that I stayed in the Phillips neighborhood. The revitalization that the Joseph Selvaggio Initiative has brought to the neighborhood has given me and my family many other reasons to be proud of where we live and want to stay for the long term.” ■

# housing

## Portland Place: New Home for Two Guys from Phillips

Portland Place, the new community on the 2600 block of Portland Avenue, is home to people from a rich diversity of cultures. All share a new sense of pride and commitment to the Phillips neighborhood.

It is hard to find a better example of this commitment than the home of Don Ross and Joe Olson. A Wedge resident for five years, Don made the move to Phillips two years ago and is a leader in the Phillips



Partnership's Community Crime Prevention Initiative. He also actively supports a variety of other community efforts. But what makes him stay in a community bound for change is his domestic partner, Joe Olson. "We're both excited, especially Joe, to see the Portland Place development. We've always walked around our community, looking for new dining places, for exercise—and

we've also met a lot of people. We decided that we deserve to stay in this neighborhood. It's our home!" he said.

### Committed to Phillips

Joe, a postal carrier for the Phillips neighborhood and resident for more than 17 years, concurs. "Why live in Phillips? Because you can make a difference here, by staying—you can provide some stability and can make a block more stable, especially for the children. Sometimes things can be so bad, and I think Portland Place can offer a lot of hope."

Craving a better neighborhood and willing to put his money where it would count, Joe Olson bought property in Phillips and became a landlord to six residents. He says that was about the time crack came to town. "It was

tough for a few years. Eight years ago something happened and is what I think turned the tide. Selwin Ortega opened his Super Mercado. That was a sign and really helped improve things."

It wasn't just Ortega's business that helped improve things. It was the fact that he showed he was a part of it, Joe said. "We held a block party at 29th and 3rd — Ortega came, unmasked and brought tables, food and treats. When the party ended, frustrated drug dealers raced their engines waiting for the barricades to be removed," he said. "We showed them that it was our street."

Together Joe and Don have seen people murdered on their street, and have personally been attacked yet their commitment to this community is unyielding.

*Portland Place...continued page 6*

# infrastructure

## Neighborhood Residents Address I-35W Access

More than 300 south Minneapolis residents turned out to be heard on I-35W access at three public "open houses" in late September. The well-attended forums provided neighborhood residents with detailed briefings on the project, and an opportunity to air their reactions.

"This process is working well," said Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin. "The turnout was great and the level of resident interest was impressive." Elected leaders and homeowners stood side-by-side viewing and discussing the alternatives. Members of the Project Advisory Committee served as hosts, assisting residents in viewing maps and in explaining the project's purpose. Each participant was asked to provide their comments in writing or recorded

by a court reporter. Interpreters were available in four languages and sign language for the deaf.

### Majority support new access

Sixty percent (60%) of the residents responded in support of creating new access to I-35W. Thirty-five percent (35%) said they did not see a need for the project, and five percent (5%) were unsure. Craig Anderson, Chair of the Project Advisory Committee, felt the response indicates that "local residents generally understand the need for better access in the Lake Street area."

Residents did express concern for how these improvements might increase the traffic levels on local streets and negatively affect private property. Minneapolis Park Board Commissioner Annie Young, who



*Aaron Isaacs, Metro Transit, discusses options with residents at an open house on I-35W access.*

lives in the Phillips neighborhood, cautioned that, "we must be sure that our City streets can handle traffic generated by these new access ramps." She also emphasized that care must be taken to understand all of the impacts, and particularly those to residents who must be relocated.

### Economic renewal

Most of those who attended also said that they viewed the project as a great opportunity for the community to improve its economic potential. Lyndale neigh-



# crime update

## Minneapolis Police Officer Offers Instant Lesson in Drug Arrest

People talk about a “strategic impatience” in the Phillips Partnership, and the neighborhood residents leading the Partnership’s Crime Prevention Initiative are no exception.

“We all want to work together to make things happen,” explained Dawn Wangen. “So many of us have had to put up with so much, that we are really excited to see some positive changes in the neighborhood.” Wangen is one of the steady guiding hands in the crime prevention group who also is not afraid to voice high expectations.

### Neighborhood teamwork

Wangen offered praise nevertheless to Minneapolis Police Officer Dave Garman and his SAFE partner Leanne Selander when they described the Department’s Crack Unit and its approach to drug enforcement in Phillips. Garman explained that residents can have a great impact in the success of

drug arrests and prosecutions by watching carefully and reporting suspicious activity in the neighborhood. He also counseled patience, cautioning that drug investigations take time to develop the necessary evidence, usually leading to undercover buys.

As Officer Garman answered residents questions, they also helped to identify specific “problem properties” where drug dealing is suspected. One of the addresses they mentioned was 2445 Portland Avenue South. Garman excused himself early from the meeting, explaining that he had an appointment with the Crack Unit to execute a warrant.

### Instant gratification

Within hours, Garman and the Crack Unit had performed a drug raid at 2445 Portland Avenue South. The Unit arrested six people on narcotics and other charges, and confiscated crack cocaine, heroin, a sizable amount



Minneapolis Police Officer David Garman

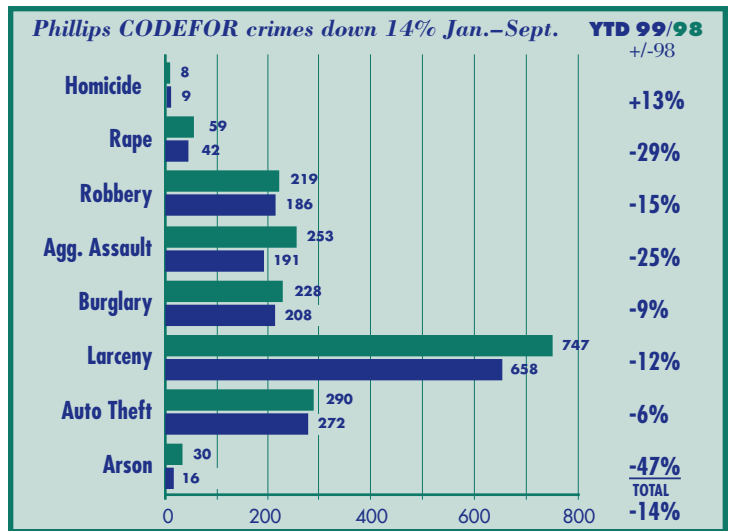


Crime Prevention Specialist Leanne Selander

of marijuana, and five guns, along with other drug paraphernalia.

Garman warned that not every crime prevention meeting will be so prescient. “This one

was a great coincidence,” he said, “and I am pleased for the residents in the neighborhood that at least in this case we came through with some instant results.” ■



### Access...from page 3

borhood resident Jennifer Oliphant emphasized that, “its extremely important that we get these accesses built and the Great Lake Center done.” Without the viability of the hospitals and other businesses, said Oliphant, it would be difficult to improve the neighborhoods. “People have to be able to get here,” she said.

Lyndale resident Thor Anderson said that he would be in favor of closing the 35th and 36th Street ramps and establishing a new entrance and exit at 38th Street. Margaret Skelton from the Bancroft neighborhood disagreed, saying that “38th Street already has too much traffic and is too congested.” Phillips resident, Perry Caranicas, summed up by saying that, “the



whole idea of connecting the area to the freeway system is a very good idea and it must be done.”

### Preferred alternatives in 2000

Commissioner McLaughlin explained that this process leads to the designation of preferred ramp location alternatives early next



Neighborhood residents attending the I-35W open houses filled out comment cards and provided statements to a court reporter.

year. “The open houses provided a good setting for people to learn about the project and to give their opinions,” he reflected. As the number of alternatives are reduced, he said, “the level of

participation will increase and people’s positions will become clearer and more specific.” Further open houses are planned to discuss the preferred alternatives next year. ■

# Phillips Partner profile

## Michael Bonsignore, Chairman and CEO of Honeywell

As one of the founding members of the Phillips Partnership, Michael Bonsignore has been a principal player in the regeneration of the Phillips neighborhood. For over a hundred years, Honeywell has had its headquarters in Phillips.

But nothing stays the same forever... As a result of the pending merger with AlliedSignal, Honeywell will soon be moving its headquarters to New Jersey. However, when the merger was announced in June of this year, Bonsignore was quick to reaffirm Honeywell's commitment to its community responsibilities and its involvement with the Phillips Partnership.

### No Turning Back

"We will keep our financial commitments to our community activities and one critical responsibility for us will be to continue as a very active member of the Phillips Partnership. The

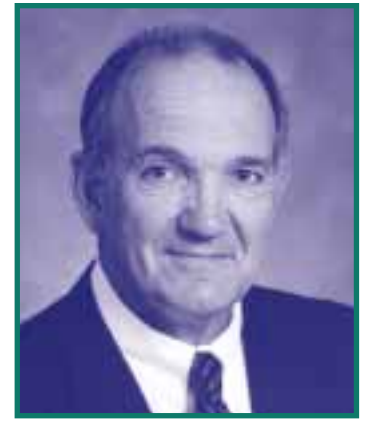
work of the Partnership is making such a difference in the neighborhood, there can be no turning back", said Bonsignore. "We are moving our headquarters to New Jersey, but one of our most important businesses (Home and Building Control) will still maintain its global headquarters here in the neighborhood. And I have designated Kevin Gilligan, the leader of that business, as Honeywell's representative on the Phillips Partnership. I am sure that Kevin will be a diligent supporter of the Partnership and will uphold Honeywell's long tradition of community service in this neighborhood.

"And even though I will no longer be physically here in Minneapolis, I will follow the work of the Partnership very closely. The Twin Cities will still be home to a significant number of Honeywell employees (in excess of 7,000). I will be back

on business trips and you can bet that I will be checking on the progress of our initiatives in the Phillips neighborhood."

### Remarkable Achievements

Kevin Gilligan, president of Honeywell's Home and Building Control Solutions and Services business, said: "I'm impressed at the accomplishments of the Phillips Partnership in just two short years. Your activities have ranged from housing to jobs and training, and from safety to anti-crime initiatives. These are remarkable achievements that have attracted well-earned national attention. But the task is far from complete. This is why Honeywell will continue to be an active supporter of the great work of the Partnership. It is my intention to continue Honeywell's legacy of involvement in this valuable work. I look forward to meeting and working with the members of the Partnership." ■



*Honeywell Chairman and CEO Michael Bonsignore*



*Kevin Gilligan, president of Honeywell's Home and Building Control Solutions and Services will represent Honeywell on the Phillips Partnership*

### Train to work...from page 1

have got to keep your eyes open, your chin up. Take your time and don't rush into things. Make sure you know what you want to do."

### Phillips Partnership and the Big Plan

State Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm was also present to offer praise for the Phillips Partnership initiative, drawing the connection between employment and health. "We know for a fact that the biggest thing that people can do to make themselves healthier is to have a decent job. It has a lot to do with them taking control of their lives," she explained.

"And their confidence and self-sufficiency will pass on to other people," Governor Ventura added. "When you do become self-sufficient, you become a



*Metropolitan Council Chair Ted Mondale.*

whole better person, and that's all part of our Big Plan."

Metropolitan Council Chair Ted Mondale also affirmed recently that Train to Work is not the only thing Governor Ventura likes about the Phillips

### Train To Work Summary, Year to date November 1999

Number in class this period	2
Number graduated YTD	<b>205</b>
<b>Graduated in 1999</b>	<b>90</b>
Total placed TD	170
Placed in 1999	83
Number at Abbott Northwestern remaining	78
Number at Children's remaining	15
Number at Allina (Central Business Office) remaining	2
Placed Other	41
Number pending placement	24
Number dismissed	22
Number Quit	13
Number not placed	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>

Partnership. "One key focus of our Big Plan is Smart Growth, the idea that we must invest wisely in our public infrastructure," explained Mondale. "The Phillips Partnership is taking a compre-

hensive approach—to assure that public infrastructure investments will leverage private investments in Minnesota's poorest neighborhood. That leverage is a powerful model for Smart Growth." ■

They keep a watchful eye on Portland Place's progress. "We walk by there almost everyday," Don said.

"I think we're looking forward to moving into a place where people have a common set of experiences," Joe said. "We've already made friends there. One of the most important things to me is that Portland Place has a real possibility for becoming a great community."

### **Designed for Community**

Surely the development's design facilitates a sense of community. It has front porches in a row—facing the thoroughfare and will allow neighbors to interact, like the "old days." Garages face each other, also staging opportunities for neighbors to integrate.

"When we move it'll be very convenient; I look forward to riding my bike to work," Don said. He works for the Star Tribune

doing cost accounting in the company's finance department. "Our house will be the fun house on the block. We're opening up the first floor to have one Great Room. There will be no dining room, just the living room extending all the way into the kitchen. It will be a great place for gathering," said Joe

Don and Joe recognize that the Portland Place Association has a challenge before them. "This is almost like a social experiment," said Joe, "especially when you have so many people with differing cultural backgrounds as residents." With commitment to the community like that shown by Don and Joe, Portland Place is sure to be one great experiment. As Joe puts it, "building my community is more important to me than becoming rich—I think it's necessary to show what Portland Avenue can be." ■

## *housing*



*City Homes on Park Avenue (the Phillips Park Initiative) is coming along nicely. The first mansion conversion units are nearly complete. The new townhomes are also under construction. An opening and groundbreaking is planned for December 2.*



Phillips  
Partnership

808 Colwell Building  
123 North Third Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401