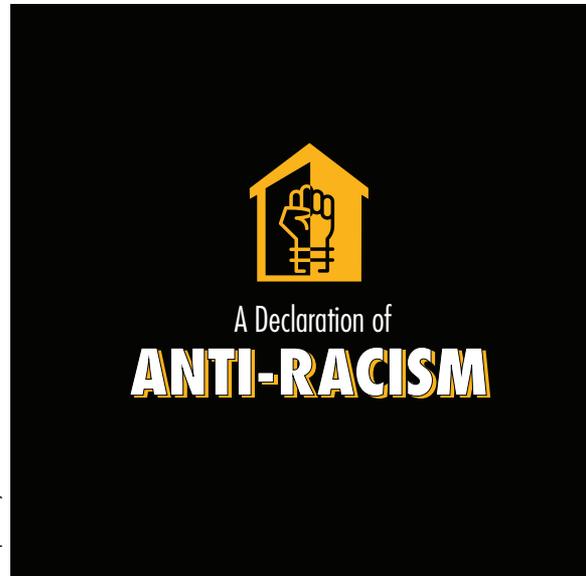


# News FROM HOME



NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME®

## Our Declaration to be an Anti-Racist Organization



This is a moment of deep trauma resonating throughout the Project HOME community, Philadelphia, the United States, and the world. We reach out to and stand with all our community—staff and residents—knowing that we are predominantly a Black community, and that we work for housing, healthcare, jobs, and education in Black communities.

The murders of George Floyd—and before him, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others—expose the power and ongoing presence of unhealed centuries of racial oppression in this country. As a diverse community, we realize members of our community may carry this trauma differently, but we unite in the horror of these deaths, our rejection of racism, and our ongoing work to create Beloved Community in the face of hatred and division. We recognize a system which has repeatedly failed to hold its agents accountable for racial violence.

Within Project HOME, we have been critically discerning how complex issues of race and power impact our own organizational life and work. We realize this effort is layered and that our efforts to challenge racism externally did not match our internal efforts toward anti-racism. Project HOME serves predominantly Black people, but

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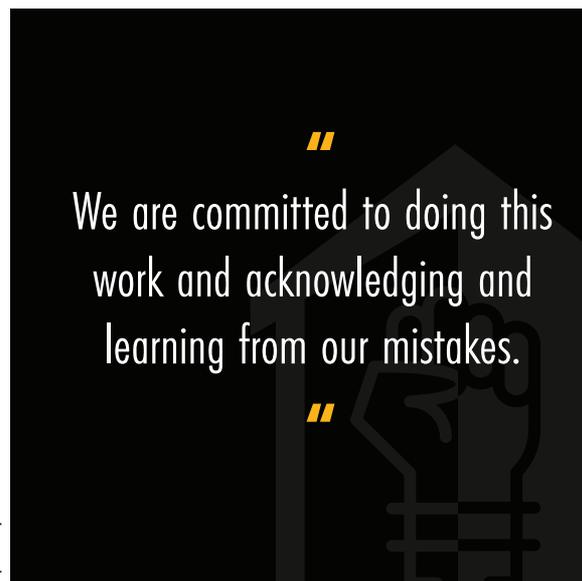
[www.projecthome.org](http://www.projecthome.org)

our leadership has been overwhelmingly white. We are taking a hard look at ourselves and commit to becoming anti-racist and want to name that we haven't been so far.

#### We will fuel necessary internal changes.

We are financially committing, over the next three years, to fund and address diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) at Project HOME beginning with, race equity. In June we received our 3-year plan from Frontline Solutions, a company that works on the front lines of change to help nonprofits like ours define DEI goals. It will highlight specific steps in our leadership, operations, and culture which will make Project HOME a more inclusive organization. Despite the havoc COVID-19 has wreaked on our budget, we will fund this work.

We are committed to doing this work and acknowledging and learning from our mistakes.



#### We will create new spaces to support staff and residents.

We will be intentional about lifting up Black voices and leadership as mentors in our work. We will call on internal and external experts to support conversations on becoming anti-racist, both as individuals and organizationally. Internally, we will continue to follow the leadership of our staff-elected DEI committee. We realize this labor should not rest on our Black community members and will move forward accordingly.

#### We will expand resources for allies and people of color.

We've created a space with resources, tools, and action steps at [projecthome.org/anti-racism-resources](http://projecthome.org/anti-racism-resources). Social media, voter engagement, and public statements will highlight how public officials and the community at large can help fight racism and police brutality.

#### We will raise our organizational voice.

Through online advocacy actions and improved tools for people to reach elected officials, we will call for legislative solutions to institutional racism.

#### We will continue to carefully navigate our relationship with the police.

We commit to the safety of the Black community. Services like the Hub



of Hope, street outreach, health services, and property management operate in some relationship with the police. These relationships will be reviewed and handled with awareness, Black humanity, and community impact at the forefront.

When most of the groundwork for the above was in place, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery were still alive. We will not forget them. Our anger will reshape us individually and make Project HOME a different organization, better equipped to do our work. How we live into this time - how well we do the necessary work within and externally - is what, ultimately, will bring us home. Together.

#### In grief, solidarity, love, and care,

S. Mary Scullion and the DEI Steering Committee (Ebony Durant, Barb Hadley, Dee Dee Risher, Claude Robinson, Kristopher Robinson, Jamaine Smith, Emmanuel Sofolawe, Karin Williamson)



## Roots and Branches: Reflections from Sister Mary

**A** formative part of my education as a young person, both at St. Joseph's University and in my early years as a member of the Sisters of Mercy, was understanding the vital connection between compassion for persons who are hurting and the need to respond to social and systemic injustice that are at the root of much of that suffering.



Photo by Lisa Suszek

Sister Mary Scullion of Project HOME.

Racism is a social sin. In my earliest days of working with people experiencing homelessness, it was obvious how homelessness was having a massively disproportionate impact on persons of color. A key point in my own journey of change was our struggle to "Free 1515" – the 5-year legal and political campaign to open our first permanent housing facility at 1515 Fairmount Avenue. Many elected officials and community leaders used the legal system to prohibit persons with histories of mental health issues from moving into "their" neighborhood. As a white woman, I came to feel deeply the damage of discrimination – how persons were labelled and dehumanized, and how legal and political systems could be used to enforce injustice and deny basic human rights. It was a blatant denial of the American dream of equal opportunity for all.

My own journey of transformation continued when I moved into the St. Elizabeth's neighborhood in North Philadelphia, where Project HOME was embarking on broader community efforts. We knew that homelessness was rooted in economic disinvestment, and that we needed to address the roots of homelessness through affordable housing, economic development, educational opportunities, and accessible healthcare. But it was in the personal relationships with neighbors, especially our beloved Helen Brown, that my eyes were opened to how racial injustice was so damaging, both personally and communally.

The recent tragic events in our country are forcing many of us take a deeper look at the pernicious roots of racism and for white persons and for largely white-led organizations to work on our own complicity. We at Project HOME are working to take the next steps in our transformation so we will be more empowered to act as advocates for social transformation (see "Our Declaration to be an Anti-Racism Organization" on page 1). We will continue the work of breaking down discrimination by building bonds of Beloved Community; and we continue to work for urgently needed systemic reforms in areas of housing, education, health care, and racial justice.

This painful moment in our society is a call for deeper transformation (see "I'm Tired, Very Tired..." below and "Everyone Can't Do Everything..." on page 3 for more personal stories from Project HOME). Each one of us must acknowledge our own biases, listen to and learn from our Black and Brown colleagues and open ourselves up to being transformed. We can only work for racial justice and Beloved Community if we are willing to be truly changed – for only then can we bring about real systemic change.

*S. Mary Scullion*

## "I'm Tired, Very Tired, But I am Trying to be Hopeful"

By Peak Johnson, Project HOME Community Development Associate and Journalist

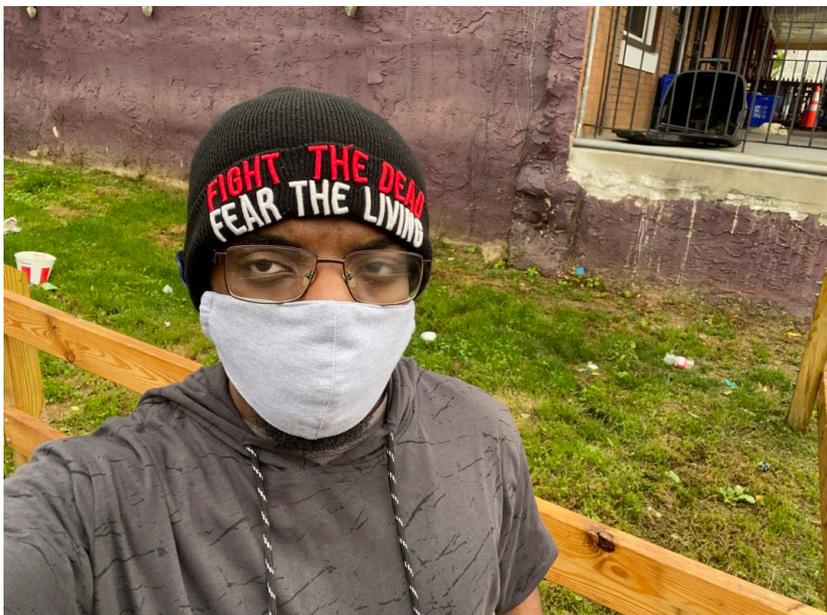


Photo by Peak Johnson

Peak Johnson taking a walk around his neighborhood in early June.

*This piece was originally published in Generocity.org.*

I've been taking the last few days to gather my feelings about the events that are taking place here in Philadelphia and around the world. It's challenging. The hatred, the anger, and the injustice are a lot to take in all at once.

Writing about this, I'm not sure if I can truly do it justice. I'm tired, very tired, but I am trying to be hopeful. I never thought that I would see the country so divided and then united at the same time. It's a beautiful and complicated thing, I suppose.

I don't expect my words to be substantial. I have no sage advice to give and I don't expect what I have to say to sway

a person's opinion on the matter. I do want to add my voice, even if it's brief, to this conversation. A conversation that has been written about numerous times and will continue to be.

I won't mention much about the looting, other than it's hurting our already struggling Black community. I think that's what started to bother me the most. I'm tired of hearing explosions before I go to bed at night and I'm tired of hearing the sound of helicopters.

But when you're fighting for equality and are a person of color, there will be casualties. Still, I wish there was another way. I'm not sure if I can get behind the image of so many buildings burning and the anguish of the owners.

But then I have to remind myself that the options for "another way" have expired so many times. If we're not careful, though, if we don't think before acting, then what is being done for George Floyd and others will become something entirely different. We're demonized enough as it is, even now as we protest peacefully throughout our own streets. I'm not sure I can describe how mentally and physically draining that can be.

And writing think pieces about your one night in jail alongside us doesn't really help.

Yes, there seems to be some progress being made, but I'm hoping that it's because of the peaceful protesting and not because our elected officials fear what a person of color might do next.

We're good people, we just want fairness and accountability.

Being caught between joy and fear when thinking about the color of your skin is never fun and I don't think our allies will ever fully understand. After the past few days, I'm hoping that maybe they will have a better sense of that. That things will continue to change and move forward.

Or is this just for show, an event to be a part of for however long it lasts? I'm not sure that the images of some police kneeling is completely sincere, but something to appease us so that we'll go away.

We're not going away.

I hope I'm being clear with what I've written. It's hard to explain, but there are times when it's overwhelming to articulate my feelings about being a Black man in this country. Sometimes even here in Philly.

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*"We're good people, we just want fairness and accountability."*

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Even now I feel as if I'm stepping on eggshells about what I should and should not say so that I don't offend anyone. I can't help but wonder as the days and months progress if things will truly get better. Not just here in Philly, but in Georgia, New York, Minneapolis, and around the world. Will there be a better understanding between police and the public? Will certain policing tactics be shelved? Will the death-by-police rate for people of color decrease?

I am skeptical, but I am also hopeful. Things have to get better, right? I never thought I would see so many people come together, even though a health crisis is taking place, marching together.

Kneeling together.

Deciding that at this pivotal point in history, at this moment at least, we choose to be one.

# “Everyone Can’t Do Everything, But Everybody Can Do Something”

By Yishya Byard, Sales Associate of Project HOME’s HOME Spun Boutique

As a witness to our community around me, both locally and afar, I am moved by the recent happenings that have stemmed from all the restlessness, frustration and anger people have been feeling in regard to the accumulation of living within this pandemic, the killings of Black men and women by police, and the plight of our Black and Brown trans people and the LGBTQI community.

I’ve had conversations with friends, and we share a common issue: what is it that WE can do to help, join, and fight against racial injustice and police brutality? Once upon a time, I didn’t have an answer, or I thought that these issues were just too large, broad, and complicated to fight against, so I sat back and remained hopeless.

These days, my perspective has changed because I read, do research, and seek out information from people who have valuable suggestions about how to get involved. I believe that I can do something to help the causes, just like everyone else

Graphic by Emmanuel Sofolawe



who eat, sleep, breathe, and live the fights against injustice, in its many forms, every single day.

*“It is time for me to put up or shut up.”*

That is why I will educate myself on the people and organizations who are fighting as a collective against these issues and make the decision to do something to lend my hand to the solutions. We need to do our best to even the scales and bring balance back to our world. Everyone can’t do everything, but everybody can do something. It is time for me to put up or shut up. If I can be a messenger, an ally, a civil servant for Project HOME, and spread the message of our mission as we fight against poverty and homelessness, I can certainly do my part to fight against injustice. The power of WE isn’t just applicable to our organization. It can be a universal truth.

## Information That Matters to You

Receive news and issue updates that matter to you by subscribing to Project HOME’s monthly eNewsletter and Advocacy alerts.

Go to [www.bit.ly/PH\\_Subscribe](http://www.bit.ly/PH_Subscribe) or contact [michaelgainer@projecthome.org](mailto:michaelgainer@projecthome.org)

Also, follow us on social media:



[www.instagram.com/projecthomephl](https://www.instagram.com/projecthomephl)



[www.facebook.com/projecthome](https://www.facebook.com/projecthome)



[www.twitter.com/projecthome](https://www.twitter.com/projecthome)

And don’t miss the great stuff on the Project HOME Blog

[www.projecthome.org/blog](http://www.projecthome.org/blog)

For the first time, Project HOME’s annual Bring Philly HOME event will be brought to you virtually! We can’t wait to be with you for a special evening of inspiration and solution-building.



“It is inspiring to see young professionals, small businesses, and local leaders come together for a greater cause.”

- Patrick Welde, Bring Philly HOME Co-Chair

# HOME Happenings

Photo by Joy Gorodetzer



## Welcome HOME Maguire Residents!

COVID-19 couldn't stop us from realizing one of the core tenets of our mission – providing supportive, affordable housing to those who need it most. Thanks to the generosity of the Maguire Family, Leigh and John Middleton, Paul Newman, Margaret and Paul Hondros, Wawa, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the City of Philadelphia, Capital One, HUD, and many others. Our incredible teams in Residential Services, Real Estate Development, and Property Management cleared multiple hurdles to begin welcoming 42 people home to our newest residence in June, Maguire Residence in Kensington.

Photo by University of Pennsylvania



## University of Pennsylvania Honors Sister Mary

We thank the University of Pennsylvania for awarding Sister Mary with an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in May. Other recipients include Supreme Court Judge Anthony M. Kennedy, Nobel Prize winner Gregg L. Semenza, and jazz composer Henry Threadgill. We also congratulate UPenn's 2020 graduating class and wish them luck. This is one of many honorary degrees that Sister Mary has received, past ones include Georgetown College and St. Joseph's University.

# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HAPPENINGS



## DONATE YOUR BOOKS

All books in good condition, especially academic, history, art and religious books.



## DONATE DROP-OFF PICK-UP

HOME Spun Boutique is open for shopping, donation drop-offs including books and order pick-up Monday through Friday 11:30am to 6:30pm.



## SUPPORT US ONLINE

Online orders shipping and pick-up at HOME Spun during store hours or via special arrangement.

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# Community and Resident Voices

My whiteness gives me a tendency to take up airtime. I've forced myself to ask for feedback; to check in even when it was awkward; and to always assume power/race dynamics are in play.

Dee Dee

I always felt that to be recognized is an essential part to someone's life; it is not just an African American statement but a cultural statement. When you do right, right comes back to you.

Bonita

I'm feeling grief, hope, and love. Anti-racism is our life's work. We have to start at home, in our personal circles, at our workplaces, and with our families.

Rachel

What this moment teaches me is that we cannot \*think\* our way out of white supremacy in America. Human society must EVOLVE: We are called to listen, learn (not just observe), read, defer, sacrifice, share, create, reflect, write, sing, speak, dance, laugh, stand up, march, run, sit still, risk, resist, interrupt, weep, cry out, protect. With Love!

Monica

From being skipped over in lines, being followed in stores, or stared down in restaurants to the point of fearing for my life, there has been a constant struggle that I've suppressed at times. Please family, please understand the trepidation we face and the pedagogy of a systematically oppressed people. We need CHANGE!

Allegra

I may not live to see it, but it's coming, knowing that my grandchildren will have the freedom to walk the streets. We need the people who support us to walk in front of us because we're so afraid that we'll end up dying. We don't have to lose another life.

Monique

If we're not naming white supremacy, if we're not getting uncomfortable with it both within ourselves and others, we're not going to move forward.

Bethany

Why is there discrimination in the first place? It's all over the world. Being quiet doesn't solve any issue. Thus, we as adults should use our discretion to tackle the situation.

Jayanthi

Silence is violence, and inaction does nothing but perpetuate injustice. Stay outraged. Use the privileges you have for good. Amplify Black voices. Join Black-led movements and organizations in the fight for justice. Black Lives Matter. Period.

Shannon

These past few weeks have been truly hurtful, especially given the values of Project HOME in our conviction of the dignity and worth of every person. My hope is that all of us have taken some time to be honest with ourselves and really listen to others. I am optimistic that change will happen but realize that there is so much more to do, and we all have a role to play in that change.

Marianne



## COMMUNITY AND RESIDENT VOICES

We asked members of our Beloved Community to share their thoughts on this fight for racial justice. For more comments and anti-racism resources, visit

<https://bitly/phomevoice2020>



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### Our Mission

The mission of the Project HOME community is to empower adults, children, and families to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty, to alleviate the underlying causes of poverty, and to enable all of us to attain our fullest potential as individuals and as members of the broader society.

### Our Residences

- 1515 and 1523 Fairmount Avenue
- Connelly House, 1212 Ludlow Street
- Francis House of Peace, 810 Arch Street
- Gloria Casarez Residence, 1315 N. 8th Street
- Hope Haven I/II, 2827-28 Diamond Street
- James Widener Ray Homes, 2101 W. Venango Street
- JBJ Soul Homes, 1415 Fairmount Avenue
- Kairos House, 1440 N. Broad Street
- Kate's Place, 1929 Sansom Street
- Maguire Residence, 1920 E. Orleans Street
- Rowan I, 2729-A W. Diamond Street
- Rowan II, 1901 N. Judson Street
- Ruth Williams House, 2415 N. Broad Street
- Sacred Heart Recovery Residence, 1315 Hunting Park Avenue
- St. Columba, 4133 Chestnut Street
- St. Elizabeth's Recovery, 1850 N. Croskey Street
- Women of Change, 2042 Arch Street

### Support Services & Programs

- Adult Education, Employment & Arts
- Neighborhood Services
- Advocacy and Public Policy
- Healthcare Services
- Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs
- Hub of Hope
- Outreach Coordination Center
- Personal Recovery Services
- Resident Alumni Program
- Stephen Klein Wellness Center
- Volunteer Program

### Businesses

- HOME Spun Resale Boutique, 215-232-6322
- HOME Made Products, 215-232-7272, ext. 3023

### Administration

215-232-7272

### Homeless Outreach Hotline

215-232-1984

### Human Resources Hotline

215-232-7219, ext. 5200

**NONE OF US ARE HOME UNTIL ALL OF US ARE HOME**®



Illustration by Emmanuel Soblowe

Fannie Lou Hamer was one of the most passionate and powerful voices of the civil and voting rights movements. She was also a leader in the fight for greater economic opportunities for African Americans. Fannie was not just the inspiration for Project HOME's fight for equality, but also for our motto, "None of us are home until all of us are home."

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

[www.projecthome.org](http://www.projecthome.org)



Union  
Bug