2015 Annual Report

BASIC NEEDS • CHILDREN
SENIOERS • HISTORY • HERITAGE
COMMUNITY SPACE

The Lighthouse of the Community

SINCE 1929
Letter from the Board Chair And Executive Director

Dear Friends of Hallie Q. Brown,

The past year has been one of incredible support and growth for Hallie Q. Brown Community Center. Fundraisers like our March Campaign and Annual Gala brought in record amounts of donations for our Basic Needs and Education programs, allowing us to better serve the community. We nearly doubled the number of families receiving meal baskets and toys during the holiday season. Our Early Learning Center and Senior Programs continued to attract new participants.

It was also a year of transition, as we said goodbye to Mildred Brunson, long-time director of the Hallie Q. Brown Youth Enrichment Program (YEP). Mille B’s retirement marked the end of an era, but also the beginning of a new season as Angie Goettl took over management of the YEP in addition to her oversight of the Early Learning Center.

Further, our building underwent significant improvements thanks to funding from St. Paul’s Capital Improvement Budget, including new carpeting, paint, and upgrades to the education areas. The next year will bring additional building improvements, including a new kitchen.

As we move into 2016, we look forward to continued expansion and improvement of our programming. Our school-aged program is seeking licensing from the State of Minnesota. Our senior programming will be expanding to include more frequent and inclusive events for our community’s active seniors. The Early Learning Center plans to begin a specialized classroom for older pre-K students, with curriculum focused on school readiness.

Through all of our growth and success, our mission is at the core of what we do. With expanded programming comes a better ability to improve the quality of life in our community. We invite you to join us—as a donor, as a volunteer, as a supporter—as we build on our work from 2015 to ensure a better life for the members of our community in 2016 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Palmer
Executive Director

Eric Levinson
Chair, Board of Directors
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center's 

MISSION 
is to 
improve the quality of life 
in our community 

by 

providing access 
to critical 

human 
services, 

fostering and 

promoting 

personal 
growth, 

and 
developing 

community 

leadership.

Core Values
With a primary focus in the Summit-University area, Hallie Q. Brown Community Center successfully operates a variety of programs, which specifically address the critical needs of community residents.

We believe an ideal community center is one where community members of all ages, abilities, races, cultures, and economic levels:

- Are recognized as valuable assets
- Experience a safe and productive environment
- Have opportunities to contribute to the Center and expand their talents and knowledge
- Have access to a full spectrum of services, including social, emotional, educational, and recreational opportunities appropriate to their unique needs and interests
- Are linked to the community’s heritage and history
- Are involved in intergenerational and cross-cultural experiences that enrich and strengthen the community as well as benefit individuals and families

2015-16 Board of Directors

Chair: Eric Levinson
3M

Vice Chair/ Treasurer: Pam Peyton
St. Paul Travelers

Secretary: Adrian Perryman
Concordia University

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Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Rhonda Cox
Cargill

Keillen Curtis
Curtis Law Firm

Scott Flaherty
Briggs and Morgan, P.A.

Amy Jones
Ramsey County District Court (Retired)

Chief Thomas Smith
Saint Paul Police Department

Referee Charles Williams, Jr.
Ramsey County District Court (Retired)

Stephen A. Wilson
Xcel Energy
About Us

Founded in 1929, Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, Inc. is an African-American, nonprofit social service agency. The community center is open to all people with a primary focus on St. Paul's Summit-University neighborhood and the Twin Cities Metro area.

The organization was born as the result of the vision, commitment and tireless efforts of several community leaders in the 1920's. It had its origins as a settlement house for African Americans denied services by other agencies, welcoming the entire population of St. Paul's Summit-University neighborhood. While Hallie Q. Brown began as an independent human services provider, the organization has evolved into a multi-faceted multi-service center.

Today, Hallie Q. Brown Community Center operates five core programs:
- Basic Needs, including the food shelf and clothing closet
- Early Childhood Education through the Early Learning Center
- Youth Programming through the Youth Enrichment Program
- Senior Programming, including Golden Agers and Retired Men's Club
- Administration of the MLK Center, including room and office rental to partner nonprofit and community organizations.

About Hallie Q. Brown

The community center is named for Hallie Quinn Brown, African American author, educator, elocutionist and activist.

Brown, the daughter of two former slaves, was born in Pennsylvania in 1845. She was a college-educated teacher whose efforts focused on improving the literacy levels of black children who had been denied education during slavery. She served as Dean at Allen University and went on to be appointed principal (Dean of Women) of Tuskegee Institutes, where she worked with Booker T. Washington. During the course of her teaching career she taught night school for African Americans, educated children in the Dayton Public Schools, and established an adult class for migrant workers.

Brown was the principal promoter of the Colored Women's League organization of Washington, D.C., and helped found the National Association of Colored Women (NACW). Brown began traveling in 1894 as a lecturer and public speaker for African American culture and temperance. During her travel, she spoke before Queen Victoria, the 1895 Convention of the World's Women Christian Temperance Union in London, and the 1899 International Congress of Women, as a representative of the United States.
2015 Year in Review

**Basic Needs**
- 14,000 unique visitors to the food shelf
- 25,000+ clothing and household items distributed
- 312,000 pounds of food distributed

**Early Learning Center**
- 4 straight years of NAEYC accreditation and 4-Star Parent Aware rating
- over 90% of students achieved key development metrics

**Youth Enrichment Program**
- over 90 families served by program
- 2 full years of before AND after school services

**Senior Programming**
- over 50% average increase in participants for all senior programs

**MLK Center Administration**
- 10,000 visitors used the Community Center space

**Additional Programming**
- 560 families received toys through Toys for Tots and Hallie’s Toy Shop
- 90% increase in holiday food baskets distributed in November and December

www.hallieqbrown.org
facebook.com/hallieq
@hallieqbrownctr

Thank you to our supporters, donors and volunteers for a great year!
Our Programs

Basic Needs
The Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf and Clothing Closet operate on a client-choice model and strive to assist families in achieving self-sufficiency and empowerment through providing basic needs of food and clothing.

- The Food Shelf serves residents of the Summit-University neighborhood, with an additional donation area open to residents from across the Twin Cities metro.
- The Clothing Closet provides free clothing and household items for families in the Twin Cities metro area.
- Both programs also administer a broad range of emergency, referral and other support services.

Early Childhood Education
The Hallie Q. Brown Early Learning Center (ELC) provides a safe, affordable learning environment for children of working parents and community residents on a sliding fee basis. The ELC:

- Is Four Star Parent Aware rated, the highest possible ranking
- Is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Is licensed for children 6 weeks through 5 years
- Provides students with skills and tools to effectively prepare them for both Kindergarten and life beyond the classroom
- Accepts all forms of qualified public assistance.

Youth Enrichment
The Hallie Q. Brown Youth Enrichment program provides out-of-school time programming and learning activities for school-aged students. The program:

- Is open both before and after school
- Is open full days in the summer and on school release days
- Is available for students ages 5 through 11
- Engages students in organized activities designed to enhance academic performance, leadership skills and community pride.

Senior Programming
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center serves as a gathering place for seniors to enhance their independence through connection to services and activities. Our most active programs are The Magnificent Golden Agers and the Retired Men's Club. Both groups meet at the center and are always welcoming new members.

MLK Center Administration
Hallie Q. Brown is housed in the Martin Luther King Multi-Service Center, and serves as the administrator for this neighborhood facility. Community groups and nonprofit organizations use the space for programs, classes, cultural events and special projects. The Martin Luther King Center is also the permanent home for a number of local nonprofit and community agencies, including the Penumbra Theatre, NAACP and Project Cheer.
Organizing or hosting community events and initiatives is one way Hallie Q. Brown strengthens the Summit University Community. These events both raise awareness of Hallie Q. Brown’s services and bring local community members together in a fun, festive atmosphere. Our March Campaign allows groups to collect money and food for our Food Shelf, while events like Rondo Days and our Hallie-ween party provide a family-friendly event for neighborhood families. We also participate in Grand Old Days and the Selby Jazz Fest, along with hosting our gala—the Annual Night at the Q. Join us in 2016 at one of these great events!
Late last year we received a touching letter from a Hallie Q. Brown food shelf client expressing appreciation for our basic needs services.

“I have been receiving food from the Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf and clothing, kitchenware and books from the Clothing Closet,” the client wrote. “These items have kept me alive physically and mentally.”

The client went on to thank the staff and volunteers whose “work has been another essential factor that has kept me alive.”

We are proud that our basic needs programs not only provide food and clothing for community members in need, but also that our staff and volunteers lift spirits and provide respectful, emotional support to our many clients.

What Makes Hallie’s Food Shelf Unique?

- Hallie Q. Brown offers a client-choice model, where community members can pick the items they will use instead of being handed a stock bag which may contain items that do not meet their dietary or cultural needs.
- We are the only food shelf in St. Paul to also offer pet food to clients.
- In addition to our staple pantry, we offer an additional area featuring fresh produce, bread and other donated items from local grocery stores. This area is open both to Hallie Q. Brown clients and to the entire community, and clients can visit as many times as needed each month.
- Hallie Q. offers—or partners with other agencies to offer—multiple additional on-site programs for clients, including a sliding-fee rate Early Learning Center, a free clothing closet, Prepare and Prosper tax services, Project Cheer music lessons for children, and Fare for All.
- Recognizing that many food shelf clients have work or childcare obligations during daytime hours, we are open one evening a week to better accommodate busy schedules.
- Our exceptional food shelf volunteers contributed over 3,000 hours of service last year, contributing an estimated $70,000 value to the organization while ensuring clients had a positive shopping experience.
What makes Hallie Q. Brown’s Early Learning Center (ELC) stand out from other child care centers? The answer can be summed up in three simple words: Respect. Acceptance. Compassion.

Ninety-eight percent of children attending the ELC are low-income, with many receiving scholarships or sliding-scale tuition prices. While some students have stable and healthy home lives, many struggle to find consistency outside of the ELC.

“Every Monday we start fresh,” says Angie Goettl, Director of Educational Programs. “We don’t know what these kids experience over the weekend.” Whether a child is living in temporary housing, has a parent who is absent or in prison, or does not have the means to afford breakfast each day, the teachers and staff of the ELC accept them with open arms and hearts.

Take Elijah, a five-year-old pre-school student who attended a different child care center for two years before coming to Hallie Q. Brown. At his previous center, Elijah’s mother frequently received calls—sometimes 3 or 4 times a week—that he was acting up and was being sent home. Staff said he had behavioral and emotional problems and was behind academically. Elijah’s mother was told he would not be ready for Kindergarten the next fall.

Elijah’s grandmother, who drops him off each morning, marveled when Elijah was not sent home from Hallie Q. even once his first week. While he had some fits and tantrums, the staff worked with him and took the time to help him through his feelings. After several months at Hallie Q, Elijah now looks forward to coming to pre-school, likes interacting with the other kids, and is on track to start Kindergarten next fall.

“I am so pleased at how much you guys have done for him,” says Elijah’s grandmother.

Elijah’s story demonstrates what Angie claims is the Hallie Q. difference. “We take the time to figure kids out,” she says. “Staff build relationship with parents to find out more about what will best help the kids. We meet people where they’re at, without judgment. If a child tells me she moved to a hotel over the weekend, I don’t act surprised. She doesn’t need to know that's not normal.”

Elijah, Angie says, has shown a total transformation in the Hallie Q. environment. “He just needed someone to actually care for him.”

The Early Learning Center enrolls children 6 weeks through 5 years of age and is open Monday through Friday, 7am-6pm. Students are provided with a nutritious breakfast, lunch and snack. The ELC is NAEYC Accredited and has received a 4-Star Parent Aware rating.
If Everyone Did Just a Little

Louis believes that if everyone in the world did just a little – devoting even an hour a week to a good cause – that we’d have “such a good world.” Hallie Q. Brown is very fortunate that Louis does his “little” with our Food Shelf and Youth Enrichment Program. Though we would argue that his “little” is actually quite a lot.

Louis has been volunteering with the Food Shelf for about five years. Though he can’t remember how he first heard about Hallie Q. Brown, his reason for continuing as a volunteer is clear: “I love it here,” he says. “What can be better than giving [food shelf visitors] some good?” Louis and other food shelf volunteers help visitors shop, answer questions, assist with bringing groceries out to the car, help sort donations, and assist with a variety of other tasks that keep the food shelf operating smoothly each day.

After four years of helping out one afternoon a week in the Food Shelf, last year Louis saw a flyer in the Hallie Q. Brown halls asking for volunteers to teach chess to students in the Youth Enrichment Program. Louis volunteered right away: “I figured these little kids are the only people I can beat,” he jokes. But as it turns out, several of the older kids picked up the game so well that they could beat him. “It’s a lot of fun,” Louis explains.

The Youth Enrichment Program is a before and after school program for school-aged kids that helps younger students transition from a daycare environment to school. Volunteers like Louis help kids with homework, teach them new skills, plan activities, and serve as positive role models for the children. Kids ages 5 through 11 are welcome to enroll in the program.

Louis hopes that more people will volunteer with Hallie Q. Brown programs. For him, it’s not a sacrifice. “I don’t feel like I’m giving, I feel like I’m receiving.”
Partners and In-Kind Supporters

- African American Leadership Council
- African American Leadership Forum
- CONvergence
- Fare for All—The Food Group
- Finnegan’s
- Fire Fighters United
- Hallie Q. Brown Magnificent Golden Agers
- Hallie Q. Brown Retired Men’s Club
- JJ Hill Montessori School
- Minnesota Association of Scottish Clans
- Minnesota FoodShare
- Mississippi Market
- NAACP St. Paul
- Open Cities
- Penumbra Theatre
- People and Pets Together
- Pizza Lucé
- Prepare + Prosper
- Ramsey County
- Ramsey Hill Association
- Rondo Avenue Inc.
- Schubert Club/Project Cheer
- St. Paul Parks and Recreation
- Summit University Planning Council
- Trader Joe’s
- Whole Foods
- Wilder Foundation

Current Staff

Leadership
Jonathan Palmer
Executive Director

Management Team
Jeff Bartlett
Manager of Operations

Angie Goettl
Early Learning Center Director

Lisa Joyslin
Volunteer and Communications Manager

Ashley Reubendale
Executive Development Manager

Staff
Hännah Gregersen
Executive Assistant

Sherman Townsend
Daytime Maintenance & Security

Sherman Townsend, Jr.
Evening Maintenance & Security

Bettye Kortus
Administrative Assistant

Althea Lankford
Food Shelf Coordinator

Brent Erickson
Food Shelf Assistant
### Hallie Q. Brown Community Center

#### Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets For the Year Ending December 31, 2015

### REVENUE

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<th>Source</th>
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<td>United Way</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Contributions—In-Kind</td>
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<td>Government Income</td>
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<td>Program Fees Income</td>
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<td>Earned Income</td>
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<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>($49)</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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**Total Income** $1,407,171

### EXPENSE

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<td>Early Learning Center</td>
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<td>Youth Enrichment</td>
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<td>Project Supplies</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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**Total Expense** $1,083,765

### FINANCIAL POSITION

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Total Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Liabilities</td>
<td>$235,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
<td>$452,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</td>
<td>$687,716</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gain (loss) in investments     ($3,204)  
Change in net assets           $320,202   
Net Assets, beginning of the year $132,011   
Net Assets, end of the year    $452,213
Thank you to our major financial contributors and core supporters. The significant contributions of these individuals, organizations and companies allow us to sustain and grow our work each year.

Major Contributors

3M
African American Family Services
F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Grotto Foundation
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Arne and Gabrielle Levinson
Eric and Celita Levinson
Mardag Foundation
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Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless
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Fire Fighters United Association of St. Paul
Scott Flaherty
Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches
Hallie Q. Brown Retired Men’s Club
Julie Haywood
House of Hope Presbyterian Church
Macalester Plymouth United Church
Kenneth and Cindy McCoy

Minneapolis St. Paul Girlfriends, Inc.
Jonathan and Emily Palmer
Gary and Edith Pang
Pamela Peyton
Kimberly Price
Ramsey Hill Association
Gail Romanowski
Althea Rupert
Schiff Hardin Foundation
St. Clement’s Episcopal Church
Travelers
Under the Radar Foundation
Unity Church—Unitarian, St. Paul
Upper Mississippi Academy
Charles Williams, Jr.
Irma Wyman
Gary Yang
Kenton Ziegler
We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous support. Without them we would not be able to do the work that we do.

## Our Donors

Adams, Mitchell  
Adams-Logan, Sheryce  
African American COMFOARTS, LLC  
AFSCME Local 2672  
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Anderson, Marvin and Gloria  
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Argo, Elaine  
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Balasa, David  
Barr, Roger  
Bartlett, Jeff  
Bartlett, Judy  
Barton Hadden, Pauline  
Beatty, Phyllis  
Beck, Judith  
Bell, Tanya  
Bennett, Kim  
Benson, Beth  
Bergland, Betty  
Birns, Dianne  
Bolinger, Martha  
Boillman, Lois  
Brown, Susan  
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Brunson, Rose  
Brunson, Towanda  
Bukovsan, Bill  
Burns, Dorothea  
Burton, Ebony  
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Chapman, Lemmie Derek  
Chatman, Cheryl  
Ciccarelli, Clyde  
Coakley, Ed  
Coffee, Thomas  
Colbert, Donald  
Coleman, Paige W.  
Cox, Rhonda  
Cummings, Mary Anne  
Curtis, Keileen  
Cutting, Ernest  
Davies, Pamela  
Deconcini, Gina  
DeCoste, Anne S.  
Deutsch, Apryl  
Devaney, Kay  
Dickinson, Mark  
Dolezal, Mary Rose Kathleen  
Dotson-Gill, Sonya  
Durham, Crystal (In Memory of)  
Eagles, Paul  
Effendi, Faezeh  
Effendi, Khalid  
Ellis, Hannah  
Engles, Paul  
Eshult, Brian  
Fletcher, Readus  
Flynn, John J.  
Flynn, Kathy  
Flynn, Walter  
Ford, Barbara  
Frame, Barbara  
Francis, Susan  
Gamache, Kristen  
Gegax, Heidi  
Goettl, Angie  
Goodlow, Francis  
Grand Avenue Dental LLC  
Gray, William R.  
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center Board of Directors  
Hallie Q. Brown Golden Agers  
Hamilton, Gerone  
Hanrahan, Anne Marie  
Heubach, Margaret  
Hickman, Maurice  
Hickman, Robin  
Hickman, Shirley  
Hill, Steve  
Hohn, Clare  
Hudson, Jackie  
Hughes, Shirley J.  
Humphrey, Janet  
Hushman, John and Diane  
Iverson, Sandra  
Jensen, Catherine  
Johnson, Timothy  
Johnson, Traisean  
Jones, Amy  
Jones, Chreesa  
Jones-Flanagan, Angela  
Jordan, Mary  
Katsnelson, Gennadiy  
Kemp, Chris  
Kennedy, Jacqueline S.  
Khaliq, Nick and Vickie Davis  
Kietlinski, Stan  
Kingsley, Karen  
Kleinhaus, Kacy  
Kortus, Bettye  
Kratchmer, Lori  
Kurtz, Margaret
Lamb-Hampton, Helen
Lancaster, Richard R.
Lankford, Althea
Lawrenz, Jane
Lee, Wanda
Lewis, Teraze
Lilja, Dorothy
Loen, Ronald
Longard, Patricia
Machtemes, Laura
Mangram, Richard and Dorothy
Martag Johnson, Marylee
Mason, R.S.
Matrons and Patrons Council
McKinney, Ann Marie
McMoore, Greg and Heather
Mercer, John
Miller, Michele
Milne, Dustin
Milon, Barbara J.
Milton, David
Miska, Barbara
Morris, Mary
Murphy, Patrick
Nelson, June
Niemic, Richard
Nix, Noel
O’Brien, Sarah
O’Leary, Patrick
Olsen, Glenn
Olson, Peter
Oye, Randall
Penumbra Theatre Company
Perryman, Adrian and Sarah
Pickul, Kimberly
Potter, David
Power House at Highland/Max Lipset
Presley, Nieeta
Presley Massey, Gloria
Price, Timothy
Propps, Evelyn
Rabinovitz, Ron and Abby
Rankin, Samuel
Ransom, Rond and Marquitta
Rawlings, Norman
Redeemer Lutheran Church
Renelt, Deanna
Rhodes-Johnson, Beverly J.
Riederer, Hannah
Rodriguez, Carmie
Rodriguez, Laura
Roline, Travis
Romero, Jesus
Rondo Discovery Club
Rorig, Dean and Antje
Rubinstein, Mitchell
Rulland, T.
Russell, Anne
Satrom, Arline
Schmedemann, Deborah
Schmidt, Kristen
Schoenbeck, Carl and Barbara
Schwab Charitable Fund
Sears, Kathleen
Shannon, Simon
Sharma, Mangala K.
Sheldon, Ames
Sheriff, Milton
Simms, Terynthia
Smith, Ronald
Smith, Chief Thomas
Snidarich, Yvonne
Soul Touch
Spider Women’s Club
Spilker, Adam
St. Clements Church
St. John the Evangelist
St. Paul Building and Construction
St. Paul Federation of Teachers
St. Paul NAACP
Stafford, Alvin
Stafford, Kenan
Stafford, Okerete
Stafford, Pompey
Stevens, Kristine
Stingley, Tony
Stoltz, Julie
Stoltz, Paula
Stromberg, L.R.
Sullivan, John
Sullivan, Judith
Sundahl, Kathy
Surdez, David
Thao, Dai
Throm, Joy
Townsend, Sherman
Tuttle, Nina
University of Minnesota
Vanderwall, Kathleen
Vargo, Elaine
Vermilyea, Gina
Walker-Thompson, Lou E. and
George Thompson
Wallace, Marcy
Walters, Nancy B.
Wenzel, Karen
West, Cynthia
West, Frederick
Westgard, Rolf
Whalen, John
Whiston, Meg
Whiston, Wendy
Whitty Mercer, John
Williams, Adrianna
Williams, Faith
Williams, Janet
Williams, Mary
Williams, Paul
Wilson, Stephen
Withbroe, Linda
Zappa, Rani
Zielski, Dan
Zingale, Nancy
Zuk-Fisher, Naomi
Volunteer opportunities are available for both individuals and groups at Hallie Q. Brown. Opportunities range from working with kids to organizing a food drive to planning an event. Specific positions are listed on our website. For more information and to get started contact:

volunteer@hallieqbrown.org

Donate Money
Our life-changing programs depend on donations from community members like you. Make a donation today through our website, hallieqbrown.org, or by mailing a check to our offices. If you have questions or would like more information please contact:

donate@hallieqbrown.org

Donate Goods
Our food shelf accepts donations of non-perishable food items and our clothing closet accepts gently used clothing and household goods. You may drop off donations at our center during business hours. A list of most-needed items is available on our website. Call us for more information:

651-224-4601