



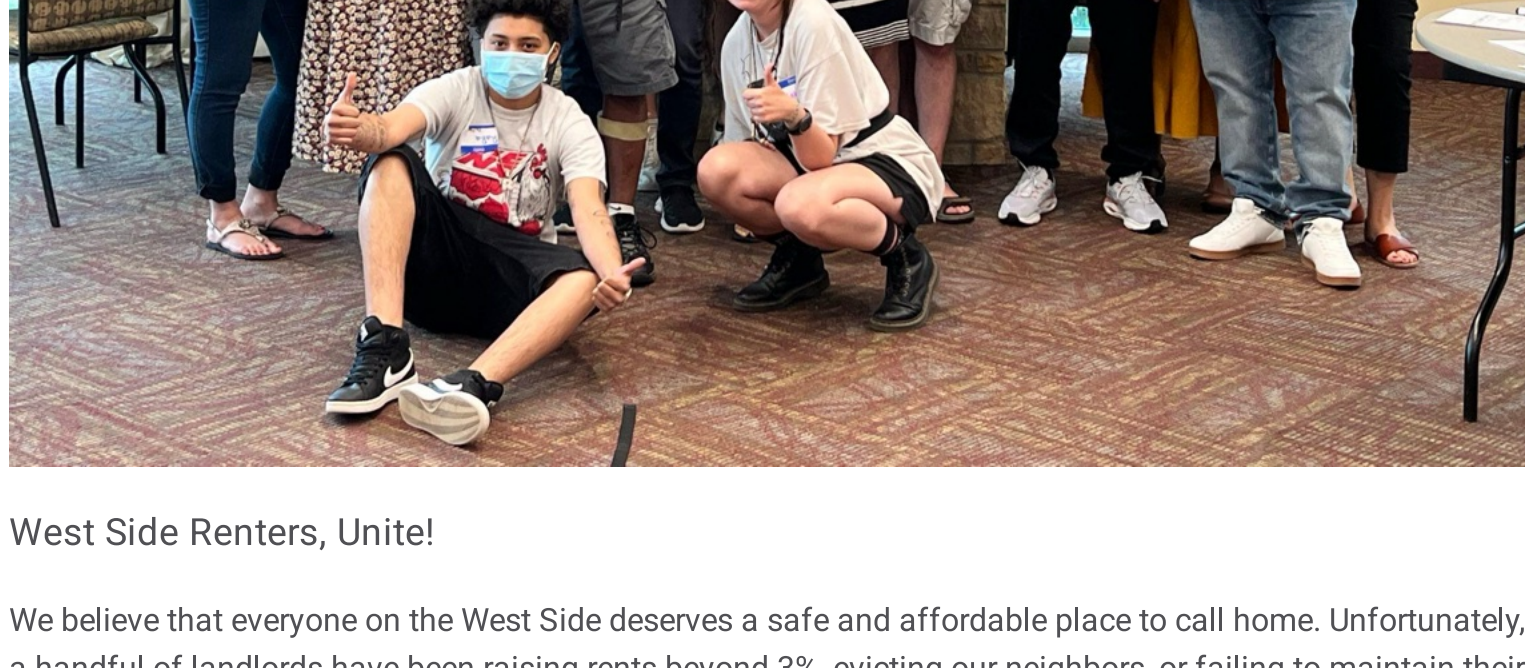
Dear Julia,

We are thrilled to announce that Katrina García Mendoza has joined our staff as Organizing and Programs Manager. Katrina is a lifelong West Sider who has raised several generations here while raising her voice justice with her signature joy and power. Katrina shared, "I'm excited to learn from and alongside my neighbors. We are all teachers and we are all learners as well." She has served as a WSCO volunteer, community leader, and board member, as well as coordinator of our Black, Indigenous, and Women of Color table.

Looking to the future, she said, "I'm looking forward to supporting co-operative home ownership, building power amongst our West Side renters, and meeting so many amazing humans in 55107. We address all issues that affect our community from building wealth to environmental concerns, dignified housing, substance use, beautification of the West Side, and more." Katrina brings extensive knowledge and experience of community organizing as well as leading teams with a focus on healing and transformation.

"I'm excited to be a part of a team that centers the community and creates pathways to leadership for our neighbors. This is a *powerfilled* space and I'm honored to be here in this capacity. This work is important to me because it's my inheritance, my responsibility, and my legacy. I seek to pour into folks as others have done for me, and I'm striving to make my ancestors and my descendants proud."

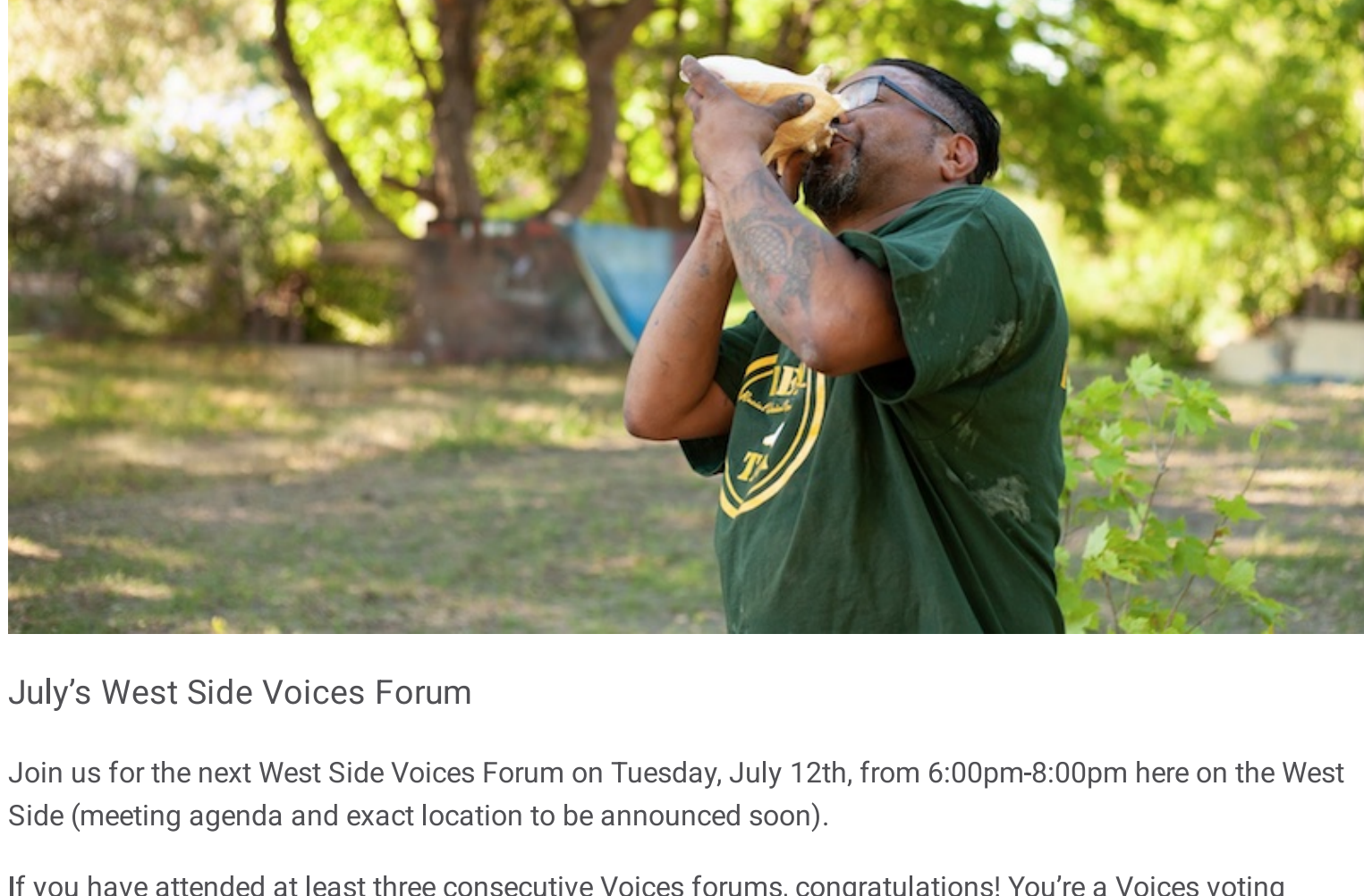
[Check out our website](#) for a full list of our growing staff and board!



West Side Renters, Unite!

We believe that everyone on the West Side deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Unfortunately, a handful of landlords have been raising rents beyond 3%, evicting our neighbors, or failing to maintain their properties. If you're a renter who is facing these problems, you're not alone. Last week, West Side renters came together to share their experiences and to support one another in taking action, because together we are stronger.

Join us!

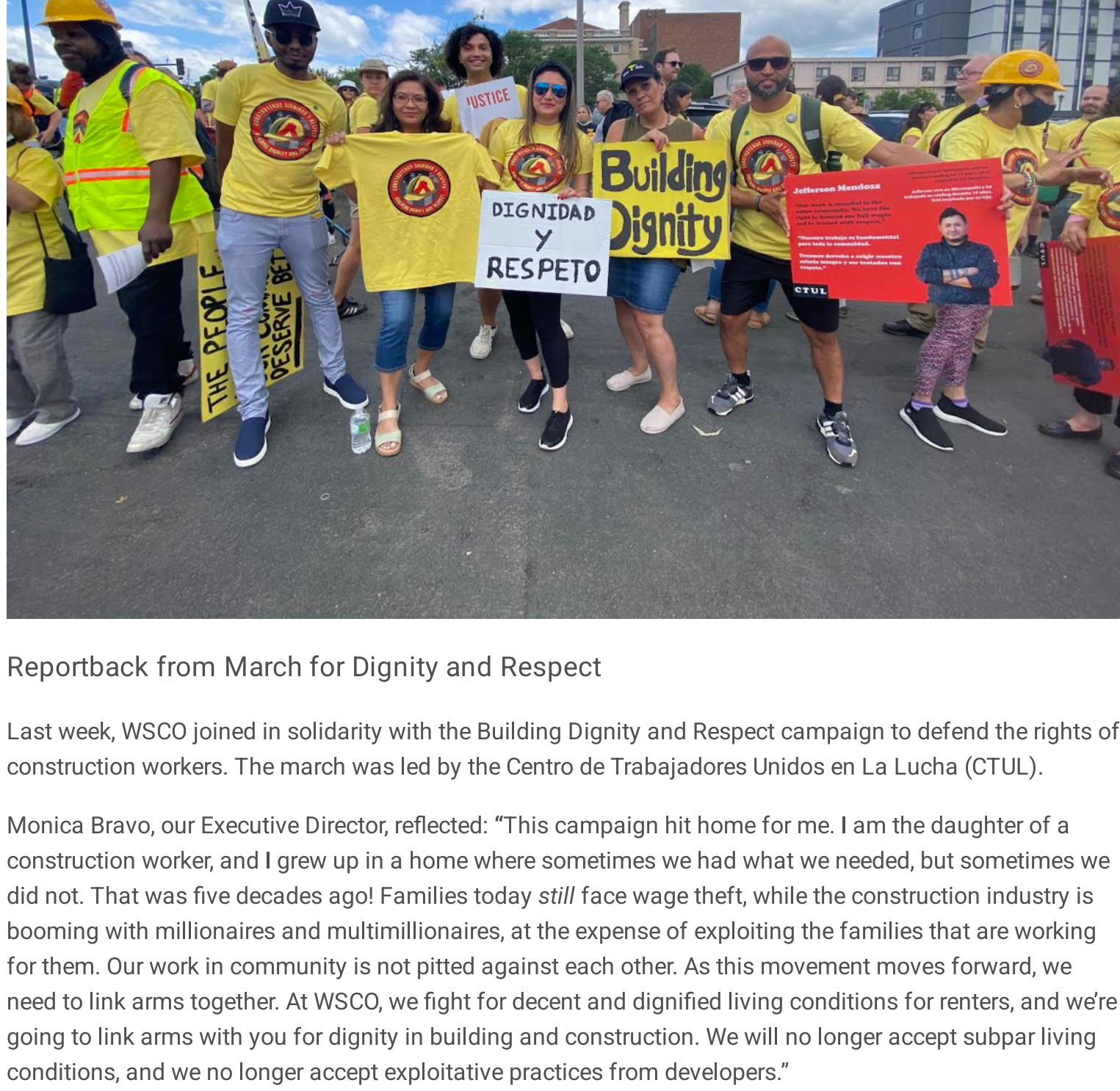


July's West Side Voices Forum

Join us for the next West Side Voices Forum on Tuesday, July 12th, from 6:00pm-8:00pm here on the West Side (meeting agenda and exact location to be announced soon).

If you have attended at least three consecutive Voices forums, congratulations! You're a Voices voting member! If you're a voting member, please review the [notes from our last Voices session](#) and be prepared to vote to approve them or submit edits at the July meeting. Thanks!

RSVP

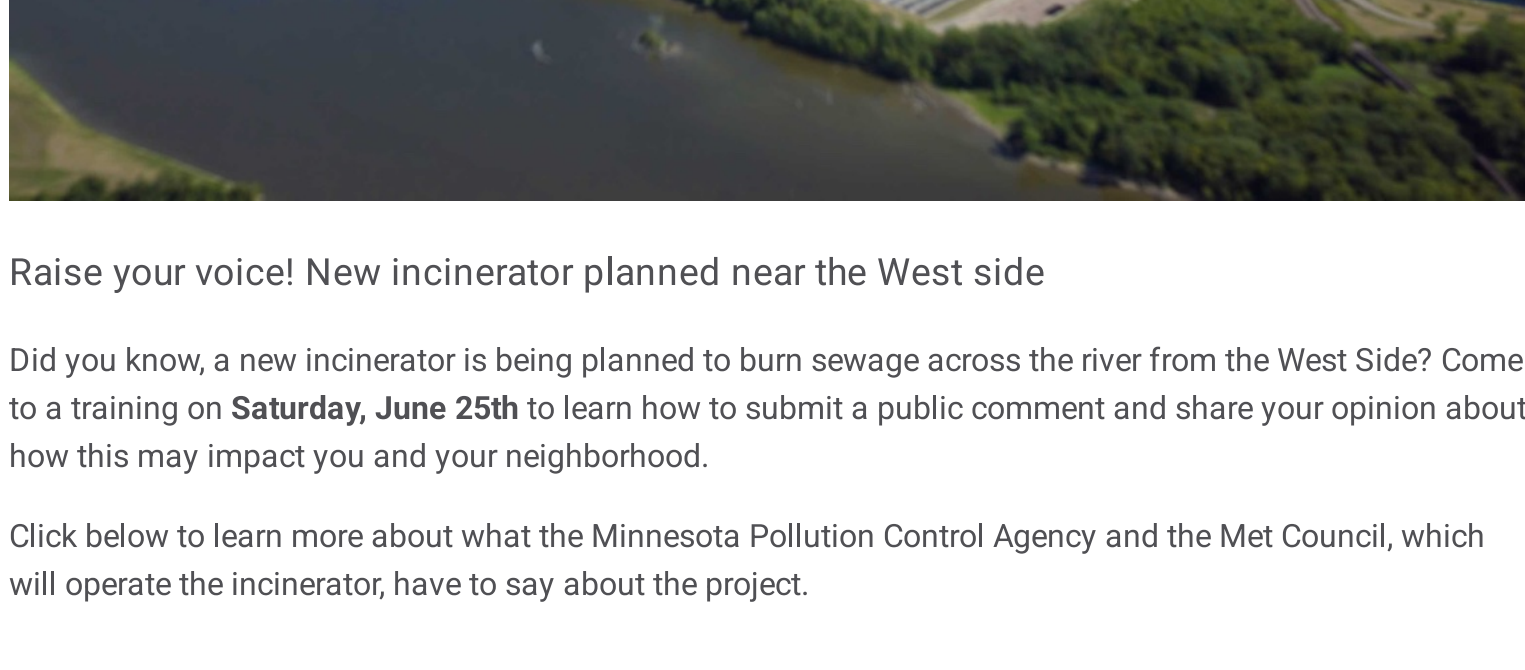


Reportback from March for Dignity and Respect

Last week, WSCO joined in solidarity with the Building Dignity and Respect campaign to defend the rights of construction workers. The march was led by the Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en La Lucha (CTUL).

Monica Bravo, our Executive Director, reflected: "This campaign hit home for me. I am the daughter of a construction worker, and I grew up in a home where sometimes we had what we needed, but sometimes we did not. That was five decades ago! Families today *still* face wage theft, while the construction industry is booming with millionaires and multimillionaires, at the expense of exploiting the families that are working for them. Our work in community is not pitted against each other. As this movement moves forward, we need to link arms together. At WSCO, we fight for decent and dignified living conditions for renters, and we're going to link arms with you for dignity in building and construction. We will no longer accept subpar living conditions, and we no longer accept exploitative practices from developers."

[Check out a photo gallery](#), of this powerful day, and check out a recent article: "[Workers' rights group calls on Twin Cities developers to help stop worker abuse](#)."

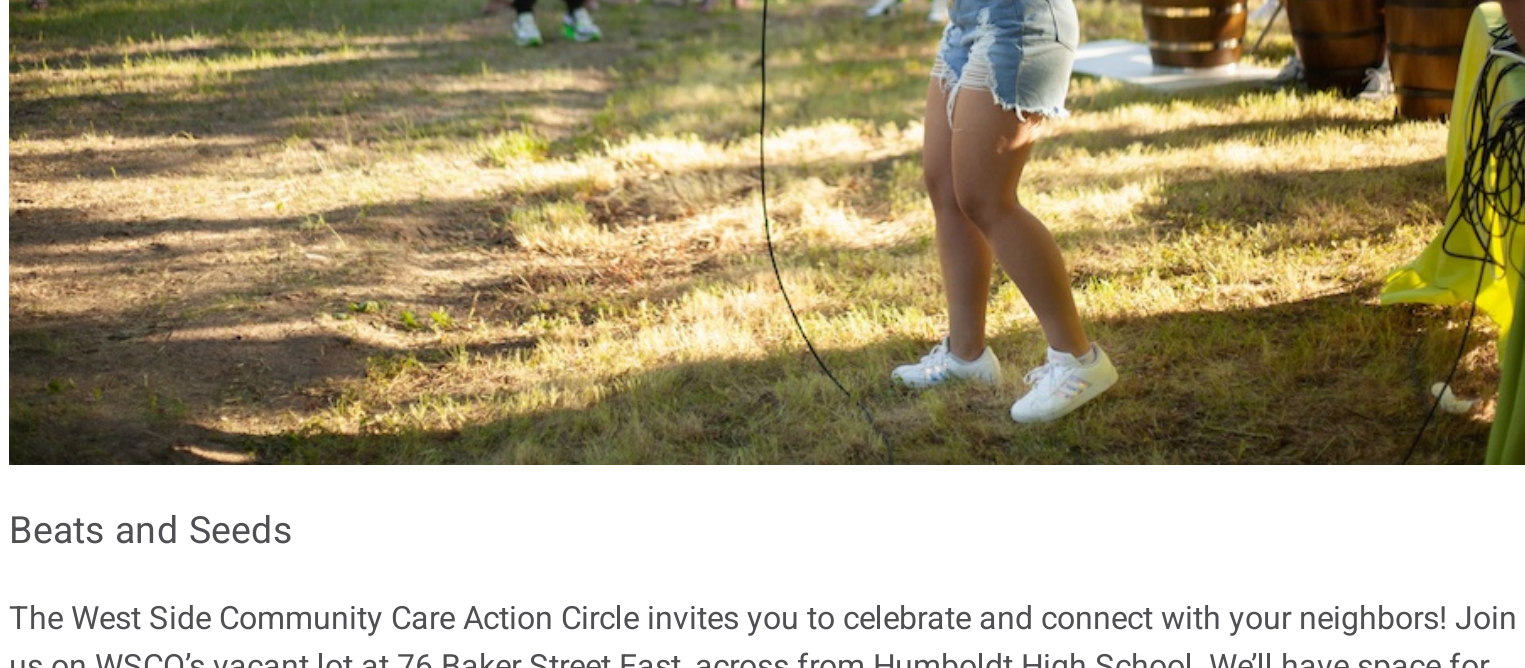


Raise your voice! New incinerator planned near the West side

Did you know, a new incinerator is being planned to burn sewage across the river from the West Side? Come to a training on **Saturday, June 25th** to learn how to submit a public comment and share your opinion about how this may impact you and your neighborhood.

Click below to learn more about what the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Met Council, which will operate the incinerator, have to say about the project.

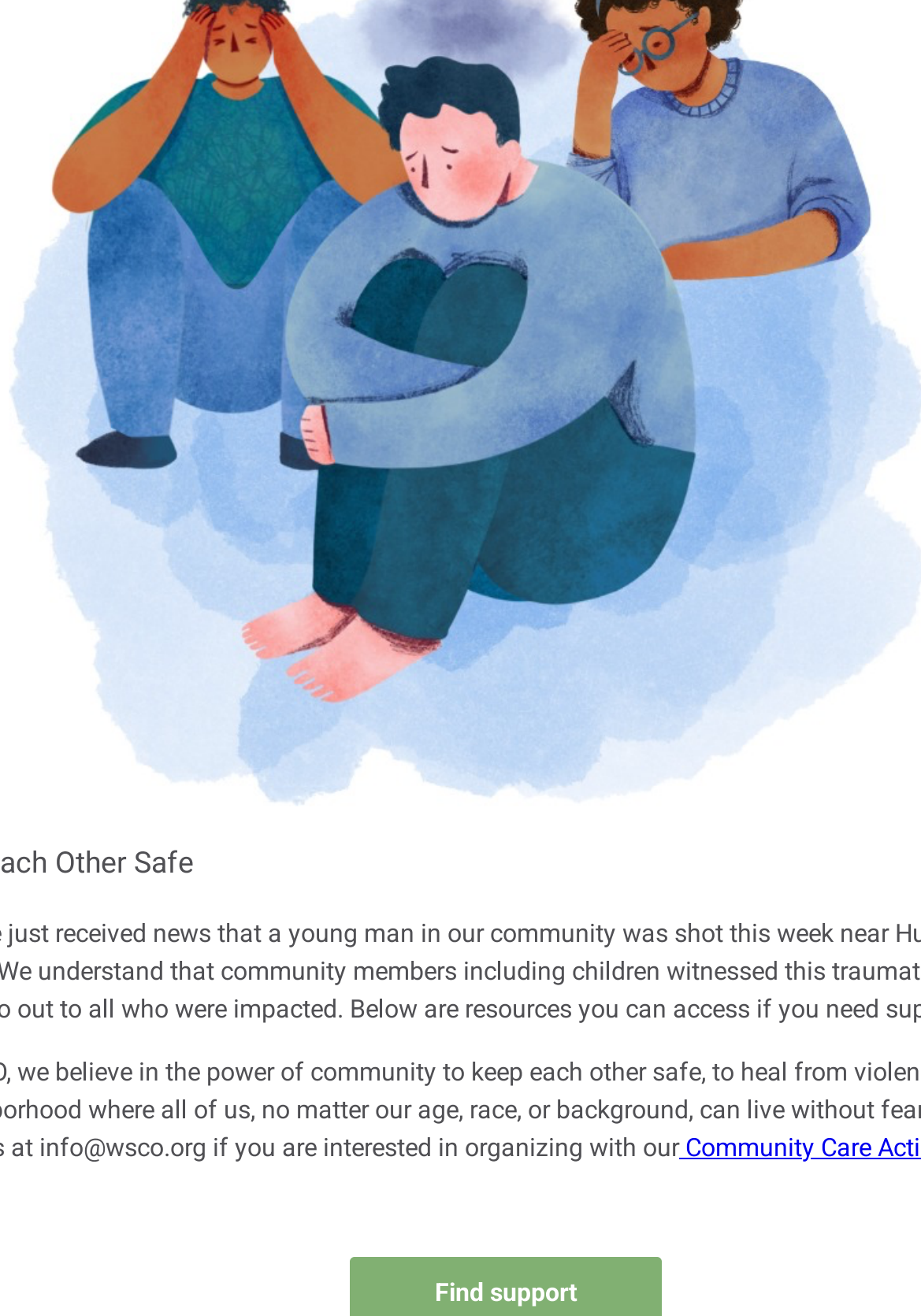
Learn more



Beats and Seeds

The West Side Community Care Action Circle invites you to celebrate and connect with your neighbors! Join us on WSCO's vacant lot at 76 Baker Street East, across from Humboldt High School. We'll have space for community connections, resources, and some good snacks and refreshments. **Tuesday, June 28th**, from 6:00pm - 7:30pm.

RSVP

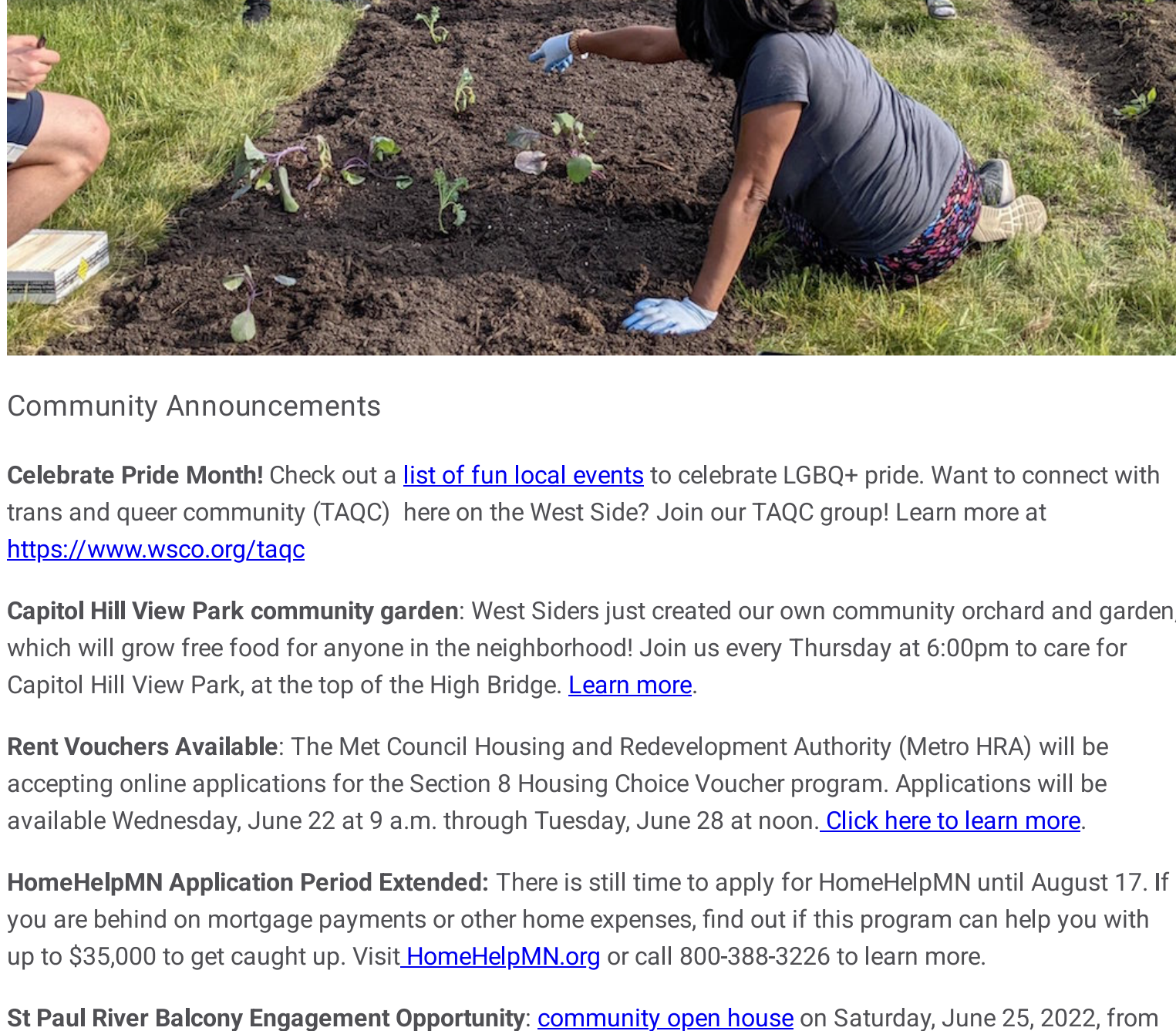


Keep Each Other Safe

We have just received news that a young man in our community was shot this week near Humboldt High School. We understand that community members including children witnessed this near event. Our hearts go out to all who were impacted. Below are resources you can access if you need support.

At WSCO, we believe in the power of community to keep each other safe, to heal from violence, and to build a neighborhood where all of us, no matter our age, race, or background, can live without fear. Please reach out to us at info@wSCO.org if you are interested in organizing with our [Community Care Action Circle](#).

Find support



Community Announcements

Celebrate Pride Month! Check out a [list of fun local events](#) to celebrate LGBTQ+ pride. Want to connect with trans and queer community (TAQC) here on the West Side? Join our TAQC group! Learn more at <https://www.wSCO.org/taqc>

Capitol Hill View park community garden: West Siders just created our own community orchard and garden, which will grow free food for anyone in the neighborhood! Join us every Thursday at 6:00pm to care for Capitol Hill View Park, at the top of the High Bridge. [Learn more](#).

Rent Vouchers Available: The Met Council Housing and Redevelopment Authority (Metro HRA) will be accepting online applications for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. Applications will be available Wednesday, June 22 at 9 a.m. through Tuesday, June 28 at noon. [Click here to learn more](#).

HomeHelpMN Application Period Extended: There is still time to apply for HomeHelpMN until August 17. If you are behind on mortgage payments or other home expenses, find out if this program can help you with up to \$35,000 to get caught up. Visit HomeHelpMN.org or call 800-388-3226 to learn more.

St Paul River Balcony Engagement Opportunity: [community open house](#) on Saturday, June 25, 2022, from 11:00am - 2:00pm at Kellogg Mall Park in downtown Saint Paul.

Free laundry day: Beautiful Laundrette is hosting a free laundry day on June 28, with live music from Ujamaa Place. [RSVP here](#).

Real Women Have Curves: Don't miss Teatro del Pueblo's production of this powerful play! <https://teatrodelpueblo.org/real-women-have-curves/>

Have a community announcement to share? Email genevieve@wSCO.org!

#WestSideStrong

WSCO organizes people of West Side to build collective power to advance justice and racial equity in the community for all people. We envision a just, united, self-reliant West Side where all of our people are connected, safe, healthy and successful. We are West Side proud. We are West Side strong.

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