This year will be remembered as the year of construction, the building of our new home. The community watched in awe as the hole in the ground led to the foundation, and then came the walls and a roof and all the amazing details to bring together our new home. Cutting the ribbon brought a new chapter to the life of Banyan. We also learned this year that we as people are under construction and that the good work that is started in our lives will come to completion. We understand better that we are moldable individuals that must learn more and reach higher in order to accomplish our goals.

Often times in low income communities, the pressure is to keep low, bury under, lock down, and keep to yourself. Isolation and fear can be at play in a big way with the high crime and low educational outcomes. In the midst of this, there is the Banyan Community. Standing boldly as a group of reconciled people, committed learners, and leading citizens who are future oriented. We celebrate each other and the new reality that we have with Banyan.

Our Annual Report this year is the story of our year—the accomplishments, the emerging leaders, the access to opportunity, and the celebration of community. We are so grateful for the many donors and community members who shared their gifts and talents to bring about a remarkable year. With a strong foundation, we have much to build on. Our future is bright because we are all in this together. A future that holds youth attending high performing schools and making successful transitions in life, parents being supported and strong advocates, and a community that is cohesive and able to navigate challenges.

Thank you for your support in constructing a beautiful home and a supportive community that creates pathways for success.

“God who began a good work.... will bring it to completion” Philippians 1:6

Blessed,

[Signature]
Graduation is a milestone a long time in the making at Banyan – and one we celebrate! For over 10 years Banyan youth have been graduating at 100% and enrolling in college!

This graduating class has been together since elementary school and bring the total number of Banyan graduates to 39! These youth join the 25 Banyan Scholars pursuing their post-secondary degrees.

DeLaSalle High School has been a great partner to Banyan in graduating youth and preparing them for college. This year we have 25 Banyan youth at DeLaSalle all working hard to reach the graduation milestone and beat the odds!

The City of Minneapolis four-year high school graduation rate is 64% and drops to 57% for Latino youth and 52% for African American youth.* The graduation rate for Banyan youth is 100%.

*Minneapolis Public Schools 2014-2015
BANYAN PROGRAMS & OUTCOMES

Youth
Banyan inspires young people to invest themselves in education and community. Youth are prepared to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through programs that cultivate social, emotional and educational growth. Our youth have fun while they develop into Committed Learners and Reconciled People.

Youth Development Programs:
- Preschool: Coming soon!
- Elementary: After School, Kids Club and Cool Off Days Summer Program
- Middle School: SOAR (Southside Adolescents Rising), Learning Circles and Cool Off Days Summer Program
- High School: ASPIRE! Tutoring, Higher Ground Scholarship and High School Employment
- College: Banyan Scholars and College Employment

Families
Banyan brings hope to families by strengthening the relationships between parents and children. Our families have close bonds that enable us to work together toward a brighter future. Banyan helps parents become advocates for their children in all arenas of life, while children become an inspiration to their parents. Banyan families are Future Oriented, because they see that their future is bright.

Family Strengthening Programs:
- Family Support
- Goal-Setting Conferences
- Home Visits
- Parent Classes

Community
Banyan connects members of the neighborhood with each other, creating bonds that encourage communication and belonging. Building trust between residents, and training leaders on every block, brings hope and safety to every home. Banyan acts as a “resource hub,” connecting residents with supportive systems and equipping them as Leading Citizens.

Community Connecting Programs:
- Lighthouse Network (LHN)
- Gathering Events
- Community Council
- Leadership Development
59 youth attended summer camp through Banyan

96% of youth report they can say ‘no’ to wrong or dangerous behavior

100% of Lighthouse Network leaders reported positive changes on their block

3,000 connections with our Community Coordinator & Family Advocate—linking families to resources

400 home visits this year

Banyan is connected to 3,100 residents through LHN

22 National Night Out parties this year!

86% of Banyan high school youth had a 3.0 GPA or higher this year

Banyan retained 97% of our youth & families through the 2015-16 school year

3,000 connections with our Community Coordinator & Family Advocate—linking families to resources
Banyan Youth

We have 120 youth and 75 families in our youth programs.

52% Female
48% Male

20% K-2nd Grade
23% 3rd-5th Grade
21% 6th-8th Grade
20% 9th-12th Grade
16% College

45% Private School
21% Charter School
18% Public School
16% College

55% Latino
29% African American
12% Other/Mixed Race
3% American Indian
1% Asian

95% Free or Reduced Lunches

Hey Banyan!

Banyan hosted a series of events this year to connect with supporters and leverage the expertise of staff members. Education and continuous learning are themes at Banyan and these events were created to pass on topical knowledge, in an informal setting. Topics included Asset Based Community Development, Grit and Resilience, and Collective Efficacy.

Guests enjoyed the opportunity to learn about the concepts and research that make up Banyan’s work. Banyan’s programs are based on community input and staff expertise, blended with current research on the assets and resources that children need to develop a positive self-image, learn social and life skills, succeed in school, and ultimately overcome the cycle of generational poverty.

Our comprehensive approach includes an intensive and sustained focus on academic preparedness along with the development of other critical assets for youth: life skills, positive self-image, awareness of educational opportunities, family involvement and the support of the community.

All working toward these overall goals:

• Provide opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills, engage in positive relationships with peers and adults, and have new experiences;
• Provide academic support and accountability so that youth can succeed in school and college;
• Create an environment of support around youth, through the encouragement and investment of the adults in the community;
• Strengthen families by connecting them to resources and helping them to avert crisis and navigate change; and,
• Connect neighbors to each other so they can build a strong community.
Banyan builds leaders, indigenous leaders, from within the community. Asset building is key to creating transformation in a neighborhood. We are blessed that three of our four Program Associates are Banyan alum. They grew up in or next to Banyan and bring a wealth of experience and insider knowledge and culture. Following is an interview with each of them on their experiences and why they made the choice to come work at Banyan.

Abby Mohammed:
“Banyan gave me a deeper meaning of community—working together.”
I started coming to Banyan when I was 5 years old, my three older siblings were already part of Banyan and it was finally my turn! I remember the games we played—’kick the can’ was my favorite! I guess it is no surprise I am now the PE Specialist.

I love seeing little kids growing up at Banyan and seeing how they benefit from Banyan. When I was a Banyan camp counselor (at Camp Amnicon) this summer, it was really cool to see the kids reflect on Banyan as a place that is safe in the neighborhood, a place that helps them connect to their family, and is family to them.

Banyan has benefitted me both experientially and in my education. With Banyan, I was able to do things that I would not have been able to do as a kid—field trips, water parks, apple picking, etc. I also received a Higher Ground Scholarship from Banyan that allowed me to attend DeLaSalle High School, which paved the way for me to attend St. Kate’s. I’ll be graduating this spring with a BS in Exercise Sports Science.

Aidee Arocho:
“Banyan is a blessing!”
I started Banyan when I was in 2nd grade in the Banyan House. I was nervous at the beginning but came to love Banyan. I loved being with friends and making crafts and singing in the worship time.

It is awesome giving back to Banyan as an employee. I have a deeper appreciation and better understanding of all that Banyan is. It is holistic, comprehensive, family and community all in one. I remember how the adults and staff in my life helped to shape me—now that is me! I see myself in several kids here at Banyan—ones that are shy or nervous. I see them grow just like I did, and that is exciting.

This week was so cool when a new kid called me by name to help him with his homework. We worked the problem and he got it! We were both very excited when it worked! We did a fist bump and went on.

Banyan helped to shape who I am. It helped me to understand the importance of school and learning and really helped me develop into a confident person. Those dinners when you have to talk with donors—gives you a sneak peek into the real world; it prepared me.

Greg Johnson:
“I love Banyan. I love making a positive impact in my community.”
I met Mr. and Mrs. Essenburg in their back yard, playing hoops when I was in seventh grade (17 years ago... 1999). Their yard always had a lot of kids in it and they had the best block parties! They are wonderful people that all the kids in the neighborhood look up to.

After high school I went to college in North Dakota to play basketball, got married, and had kids. When I came back to Phillips, my mom was a block club leader with Banyan’s Lighthouse Network. Mr. E helped me enroll my kids at Banyan and gave me an application to work in Banyan’s gym. As they say, the rest is history!

Now, Banyan is all I think about! I love Banyan. I’m making a positive impact in my community. The other kids I knew growing up are mostly locked up, but not me! I look forward to going to work, I can’t believe I get to work with kids every day and have fun with them.

I love it that my kids are Banyan kids! Our family knows so many more people in the neighborhood and my kids are proud to see me working at Banyan, they have a cool dad!
OUR NEW HOME

At the end of July 2016, as the lease expired on our 6,200 square foot space, staff packed and labeled boxes. Community members arrived and moved Banyan to our new home. This was the third move in Banyan’s history, and puts us in our permanent home! Our new home is a prototype, one of a kind 30,000 square foot two story wood frame building, designed specifically to support Banyan's model of community development.

Banyan purchased the parcel of land from the Minneapolis Park Board in early 2013 and has been running a capital campaign (Growing Responsibly) to raise the funds to build the center - debt free. Banyan raised $6.4 million dollars from generous donors, including community members, and New Market Tax Credit revenue. The accelerated project is completely paid for, built in budget and completed on time!

Thank you to all that made this dream a reality!

“I can’t believe this is really happening.” - Parent

ADDRESS UPDATE
2529 13th Ave S, Minneapolis MN 55404
Growth is dependent on building Social Capital and Financial Capital

The wait is over! We are now able to bring in more youth and families to Banyan. Our waiting list started in 2010, and has had very minimal movement due to a 97% retention rate of youth and families. We have plans in place to double in size by 2020, reaching a capacity of 250 youth and 150 families.

In order to reach these goals we must build both social capital and financial capital.

Social capital is the relationships built on trust and shared experiences which assist a person with education, employment, and social mobility and which permit the group to better address their concerns. Simply put, it is the trust based and reciprocal relationships between people, and the ability of people to act upon that trust in community. We understand that our impact is directly related to our ability to connect and build trust based relationships with adults and youth through staff and community members. Banyan’s work depends upon the relationships needed to support youth and families from the inside out.... **we are who we serve and we act in common purpose to develop youth, strengthen families, and create community.**

Our growth is also dependent upon financial capital—our ability to access credit and build sustainable funding sources. Banyan relies solely on the generosity of individuals, foundations, and corporations to support our work. Banyan programs are offered to youth and families at no financial cost, they ‘pay’ with engagement and participation. Instead, **Banyan depends upon donors and contributors, to stand in the gap and join with Banyan to make an impact in our urban community—one family at a time.**

We have many opportunities for growth - opening a preschool, adult education, more youth programs - but we need to build both the social capital and financial capital to make these a reality.

Junior Supers

Banyan elementary kids monitored the building progress each week and conducted ‘inspections’ once a month during construction. Meeting with Paul Becker, Superintendent from Frana Companies was a favorite memory of Cartez. “He had cookies and drawings in his trailer office!”

The Junior Superintendents, donned in hard hats and safety vests, did a great job keeping things in check. There were lots of new experiences - walking through walls, making sand castles on the conference room floor, checking on the gym and learning what it takes to build a building. They even left their “names” hidden away in the wall above the fireplace. It was a great learning experience for all!

Our youth have learned so much about plans, construction, and the variety of equipment needed - hard hats and safety vests were a bonus!
In 2014, Banyan gave out the first Transformation Award in honor of a supporter whose impact has changed the trajectory of youth and families in the Phillips neighborhood. This year’s award winner, Alison Johnson, demonstrates the value of connections and introductions to bringing about transformation.

In the early years of Banyan we quickly realized that our youth were missing the required school supplies that would ensure they could fully engage in the educational process.

It started with 20 backpacks, school supplies and uniforms in August of 1999 that were handed out to all Banyan kids. Alison organized the committee to fill that first order and laid the groundwork to ensure the order was filled every year since. The program became known as School’s Cool, and this year delivered over 120 backpacks, school supplies, and uniforms to all Banyan youth!

“One of the simplest, but most influential things, we can do is to make connections. I met the Banyan Community and realized that what they offered and needed were a match with what my home parish needed and could offer.

Many people credit their education with the creation of meaning and opportunity in their lives. Banyan offers folks the chance to make an important and relevant difference in the lives of young people and their family, passing along the gifts and opportunities they were provided in their lives. This type of connection provides benefit and meaning to both groups.

My small part was to recognize the importance of the connection, and to reach out my hand to each group, and make the connection.”

Her dedication and tireless work on behalf of Banyan youth and families has truly been transformational. What a gift!

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Seng Ye graduated from DeLaSalle High School in 2012, and Marquette University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering. He is now working for Revenue Solutions, Inc. at their Implementation Center in Providence, Rhode Island.

Seng Ye is one of five Xiong children that have grown up Banyan. He was in kindergarten when he started at Banyan, in Mrs. E’s home. He remembers the move to the Banyan house, and then to the leased church building. He can’t wait to visit Banyan’s permanent home when he is in town.

“Banyan has given me an opportunity that I would have never had.”

“Banyan has given me an opportunity that I would have never had. I look at the people who are like me and I compare their lives to mine. I notice that they are either smarter to better than me in almost every way but because they were never given the opportunity to excel; they stayed the same while being molded by their environment. This is how Banyan has impacted my life and given me an opportunity, for that I am grateful.” – Seng Ye Xiong
BUILDING LEADERS

Banyan Community recognizes that in order for people in poverty to thrive and succeed, whole families AND the larger community must be connected. Banyan creates educational pathways for youth to develop leadership skills, engage in positive and meaningful relationships with peers and adults, and broaden their horizons. Likened to a “LinkedIn” social capital network that dissipates the ghetto like situation of poverty in neighborhoods.

This year’s Business Leaders Breakfast was held on a sunny spring day that both inspired and highlighted how together, we can build bridges to 1st generation business leaders. Dr. Bill McGuire shared thoughts on hope, leadership, and the future of soccer in Minnesota. He stressed the importance of education and applauded the results of the work of Banyan. Joani shared how as leaders we are artists, we are way finders, and we are here for a time such as this. She shared many examples of these attributes at work in Banyan every day - ensuring successful outcomes for youth, families, and the community.

We also heard from the youth at Banyan about what leadership means to them: honesty, kindness, integrity, humility, helping others, and being a good friend. Leaders stand up for others, make good choices, are respectful, encouraging, and good listeners. They care for others, work things out, and are a good example for others.

Banyan is building leaders and the next generation of business leaders every day.

Kid Quotes

“My favorite thing about tonight is the WHOLE night!” —Banyan youth, after the Banyan Family Celebration

“Scholar Style helps me focus on what I need to get done.”
—Kiaree, 2nd grader

“I love doing homework!!”
—Angel, Kindergartner

“It’s ok to ask for help because sometimes you need it!”
—Eumarion, Kindergartner

“If you want a job when you grow up, you have to do your homework.”
—Stephanie, 2nd grader

“When are we going to do Learning BINGO again?” —5th grader

“Kinder Club is my favorite part of the day!” —Kindergartner

“We do a lot different things at Banyan. At school we play the same three games in gym class.”
—Banyan youth

Response to “Chemist in the Classroom”

Kindergartner: “Chemists kind of look like magicians!”

Staff: “Why do you say that?”

Kindergartner: “Because you can make things that are supposed to break stay together!”
Banyan Community is blessed with many donors who support our mission year after year. Partners to Pathways celebrate this tradition of consistent giving. Every gift makes a difference and allows us to build pathways for the development of youth, the strengthening of families, and the creation of community. Thank you for your tremendous loyalty and support to Banyan Community.

10+ CONSECUTIVE YEARS

- Christ Presbyterian Church
- June Cicero
- Ed and Toni Egan
- Martin and Barbara Essenburg
- Marty and Deb Eisenberg
- Tim and Joani Eisenberg
- Faith Christian Reformed Church
- Frey Foundation
- Luther I. Replogle Foundation
- General Mills Foundation
- Kathy Gnrendahl
- Bud Helman
- Julie and Jason Hetland
- Tom and Regina Hudson
- Paul and Terilyn Huntingdon
- Alison and Russell Johnson
- Dale and Wilma Johnson
- Tom and Margaret Johnson
- Arthur and Janet Kiem
- John and Mary Lindquist
- David Ness
- Manuel and Maria Ortiz
- People in Ministry Care
- James and Nancy Plewacki
- Kristin and Brent Robbins
- Roseville Lutheran Church
- Scott and Ellen Sayer
- Damian and Rose Topouzis
- Doug and Michelle VanderVeen

5+ CONSECUTIVE YEARS

- Tracy Sterk and Erik Aamoeth
- Patricia Adkins
- Allina Health System
- Thomas Archbold and Jacqueline Ivers Archbold
- Lesley Basset
- Bell Lumber and Pole Company
- Brian and Deborah Benson
- Dennis and Londa Bilski
- Bob and Sue Burns
- John and Tamra Camp
- Nancy Cicero
- Ralph and Shirley Clare
- Edward and Shelly Dau
- Tim and Cynthia Davey
- Kyle and Denise Didier
- Carol Drinkard
- Douglas and Willie Eden
- Joseph and Anne Egan
- Jon Foss
- Timothy and Teresa Foster
- Janet Frey
- Michael J and Karen B Frey
- Greg and Kathleen Good
- Grain Mills Dairy Products Inc.
- Jerome and Diane Grebin
- Patricia and Terry Hammink
- Richard and Kathleen Hanley
- Edwin Hawkins
- Steven and Ruth Heath
- Virgil and Marlys Hoffman
- Brian and Ann Holland
- Jay and Susan Jensen
- Christopher and Sheila Jones
- Tom and Cheri Kamp
- Martin and Esther Kellogg
- Shirley Kern
- Stephen and Deb Klem
- Mary Ann Knight
- Patrick and Kateri Knight
- Gregory and Christine Knopff
- The Minneapolis Foundation
- Charles and Carolyn Meyer
- Lori Lynn Nissen
- Tim and Barbara Olson
- Christopher Ritchie and Susan O'Malley
- Daniel and Kathleen O'Neil
- Bob and Janet Orange
- Richard and Nancy Peach
- Michael and Sharon Peschel
- Neil and Patricia Peterson
- Pohlad Family Foundation
- Rebecca Kelleher-Reeth and Paul Reeth
- John and Ann Rencken
- Ronel Robinson
- Chico and Tuyen Rowland
- John and Ann Ryan
- The Sayer Charitable Foundation
- Kristopher and Georgy Scherer
- Steve Imholte and Rachael Scherer
- Roger and Angeline Schnobrich
- Mark and Ann Schulze
- Donnell and Jeanne Schwarz
- Susan Schwarze
- Kathleen O'Keefe and Craig Shaffer
- Dennis and Sarah Showalter
- James and Cynthia Smith
- Jane Soshnik
- Sunrise Banks
- Alan and Barbara Tennessen
- Dave and Naomi Tetzlaff
- Thomson Family Foundation
- Tom Thomas
- RBC Foundation - USA
- Mary Ann Dorsher
- and Sven Wehrwein
- Mark and Sara Welch
- Mike and Ann Wilczynski
- Jeanne Strauchon and Larry Winship
- Daniel and Carol Wolfe
- Christine Wolohan

3+ CONSECUTIVE YEARS

- Robert and Jeanne Alm
- Maria Anderson
- Doug and Jenny Anderson
- Kevin and Jessica Baas
- Doug and Julie Baker
- George Barry
- Peter Berrie
- Timothy Bettenga
- Paul and Amy Biewen
- James and Judith Brass
- Tricia Brownlee
- Gregory and Leota Brucker
- Carlson Family Foundation
- Nancy and James Carrier

To be included on this listing, donors must have provided financial support each of the last three/five/ten years (ending December 31, 2015). We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this publication. If we have omitted, misplaced, or misspelled your name, please accept our apologies and contact us at (612) 722-8512 or info@banyancommunity.org. Your gifts truly make a difference.
Banyan first met a member of the Frey Family at a neighborhood Library meeting in 2003. Concerned community members gathered at this meeting to discuss how to save the Franklin Library. The “Friends of Franklin” group succeeded with the help of many generous people, including the Frey Foundation.

It was two years later that Banyan received support from the Frey Foundation in recognition of our work on narrowing the achievement gap. Every year since then, Banyan has partnered with Frey to enhance and strengthen programs that support youth in the Phillips neighborhood graduation from high school and success in college.

Frey Foundation supports organizations that are engaged in promoting self-sufficiency and stimulating creative change in their community. When making funding decisions, they look for organizations with strong leadership and staff. Banyan is proud to meet those standards with a proven record of success with youth and community transformation.

Banyan is proud to have the Frey Foundation as a Partner to Pathways!

**OUR FINANCIALS**

### 2015 FUNDING SOURCES

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### 2015 GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

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### 2016 BUDGET

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### 2015 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

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Frey Foundation of Minnesota

**FREY FOUNDATION **

**MEETS STANDARDS**

**MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF NONPROFFITS**

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION**
THANK YOU TO OUR ANNUAL SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for all gifts received in support of our mission!

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David and Kathy Abrahamson
Patricia Adkins
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Kate Alm
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This list recognizes gifts that were received from January 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this publication. If we have omitted, misplaced or misspelled your name, please accept our apologies and contact us at (612) 722-8512 or info@banyancommunity.org. Your gifts truly make a difference.
The ribbon is cut and a new era is starting for Banyan Community! After a successful capital campaign and construction project, Banyan’s new home is a reality. Banyan is now poised to more than double its outreach and is positioned for scalability for the long term. None of this would have been possible without the generous contributions made by all of Banyan’s supporters. Thank you for your trust in the work Banyan is doing.

Since its founding in 1998, Banyan has transformed the lives of hundreds of young people and their families. Now Banyan will finally have an opportunity to expand services and introduce more families and children to Banyan.

It is my privilege to serve as Chair on the Banyan Board of Directors. To lead a committed and talented board and gifted staff and community. I invite you to read all about our success and share it with others.