

Dear friends and supporters,

What do the words "home field advantage" mean to you? Do they bring back thoughts of childhood t-ball games? Or the memory of the '87 World Series? No matter your connection to these words, they are universal in their meaning – the home team does have an advantage.

Each day, Pillsbury United Communities tries to even the odds for inner-city Minneapolis residents. But the facts are simple: most of the 35,000 individuals we serve each year do not have "home field advantage."

- Think about the child of a parent who is working two jobs to make ends meet. That child doesn't have the "home field advantage" when it comes to homework help or family dinners Pillsbury United Communities levels that playing field with reliable after-school programs, easing a parent's stress and putting the child on a path to success.
- Think too, about the immigrant family who speaks little English. They don't have "home field advantage" when applying for jobs. Pillsbury United Communities helps through culturally appropriate and linguistically specific job training and employment services.
- Or the single mom recently laid-off from her corporate job. She worries over how she'll put healthy food on the table for her kids. Pillsbury United Communities helps her family gain "home field advantage" with fresh produce and groceries from our food shelves.

So often we take for granted the advantages we have. **Do you have an advantage because of your education? Your job? Your location? What about those who don't?** Think about those who enter situations at home, at work, and at school every day feeling like they are not a part of the "home team." **Now's the time to even the playing field, ensuring that all community members have "home field advantage."**

"Home Field Advantage" is our focus for 2010. You can be an instrumental part of changing the shape of Minneapolis communities by joining us today to address poverty by creating opportunity – creating a "home field advantage" for those most in need.

To learn more about our "Home Field Advantage" initiative, visit us online and explore ways you can stay involved at www.puc-mn.org/homefieldadvantage.aspx.

Sincerely,

Anthony Wagner
President