



NORTHERN COMMUNITIES
LAND TRUST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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200th Home

Northern Communities Land Trust (NCLT) will be celebrating a milestone today: The completion of their 200th home. Community members will gather at 922 East 8th Street in Duluth from 4-6 pm. The festivities will include music, food, beverages, a showcase of the NCLT's work, a ribbon cutting conducted by the Duluth Chamber of Commerce, and a proclamation from Mayor Ness.

NCLT Executive Director, Jeff Corey, comments, "Today we are celebrating 20 years of vision, creativity and hard work by many, many people that have resulted in 200 homes in our community that will be forever affordable. These homes are places where families who would otherwise be unable to own a home can put down roots in their neighborhoods, raise children, and make memories. These forever affordable homes will continue to fulfill the mission of the Land Trust long after we are gone."

The home, itself, is a formerly blighted property (see attached photos) that has been completely transformed by Common Ground Construction. A neighbor on the 900 block of East 8th Sarah Pothast said, "The house was very run-down and a big eye-sore. Now it is a beautiful, clean, well-constructed house." Pothast added, "I believe the transformation of the Land Trust houses has really spruced up the neighborhood. I like that it will be someone's home not another rental."

The four-bedroom home is currently for sale for \$109,000 to income-qualified buyers. New windows, doors, plumbing hardwood and tile floors, energy-efficient appliances, and a solar hot water system are just a few of the updates that have been made. Mike Braun of Minnesota Resource Conservation, Inc. recently tested the air tightness of the home. The results were favorable and Braun estimated that the homebuyers will save an average of \$540/year on energy costs. Braun stated, "Through my work with Northern Communities Land Trust and Common Ground Construction, I have seen firsthand how home performance testing, a well planned work scope and attention to detail can dramatically improve the energy efficiency and comfort of a home in a cost effective way."

NCLT has been providing affordable homeownership opportunities in the community since 1990. John Dacken, one of the founders of the organization, reflects, "If you had told me that we would have 200 houses in 20 years, I would have told you that you were nuts!"

Fellow-founder Greg Gilbert echoes his sentiment stating, "Northern Communities Land Trust is a big player in affordable housing in Duluth. The organization has grown beyond my wildest dreams."

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