



NORTHERN COMMUNITIES  
**LAND TRUST**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 15, 2008

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### **CLOSING IN ON OUR 150<sup>th</sup> HOME AND CELEBRATING OUR 30<sup>th</sup> RESALE**

Northern Communities Land Trust (NCLT) hit a major milestone with the resale of the 30<sup>th</sup> home and is anticipating the sale of the 150<sup>th</sup> home on April 18. The achievement of this goal means that the Land Trust has helped 180 families in Duluth buy their own homes and has recycled over \$1.2 million in subsidies, preserving permanent affordability for low/moderate income buyers.

Northern Communities Land Trust is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating affordable homes and strengthening communities through the wise stewardship of land and resources. The 150<sup>th</sup> home is part of the HOMELAND program which allows buyers to purchase an existing home on the market and receive down-payment and rehab assistance from the Land Trust.

The program acts as a catalyst to revitalizing neighborhoods. One NCLT homeowner poignantly stated, "Once you start improving, neighbors follow suit. People get more involved in their communities. Nicer houses replace dilapidated houses which lead to more community involvement and a greater respect for each other."

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2008 Out of Reach report, "Minnesota has the worst rental affordability of all 12 Midwestern states. Based on locally-adjusted wage and rent information, the report says that minimum wage earners in Minnesota would need to work 96 hours per week to afford an average two bedroom apartment. No other Midwestern state required as many hours of work for a comparable apartment." It is NCLT's mission to alleviate the challenge of unaffordable rent by helping citizens achieve the dream of home ownership.