

Background on Housing 150 Leadership

The Housing 150 Taskforce was created with joint leadership from Westminster Presbyterian Church and Plymouth Congregational Church. There is a breadth of knowledge and experience from this diverse group of congregational leadership. Titles and organizations are listed for affiliation purposes only.

<i>Bill Sands, Co-Chair</i>	<i>President, Western Bank Board Chair, Family Housing Fund (25 years)</i>
<i>Steve Wellington, Co-Chair</i>	<i>Owner, Wellington Management Board Secretary, Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation Board Chair, Regions Hospital Former Metropolitan Council member</i>
<i>Marion Etwiler</i>	<i>Retired Former President of The Minneapolis Foundation Chair, Congregations Building Community (Habitat)</i>
<i>Carol Truesdell</i>	<i>Retired Board Chair, Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation Former Director, Pillsbury Foundation Former Executive Director, Youth Trust Board Member, Search Institute Board Member, Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches</i>
<i>Fred Dietrich</i>	<i>Retired Former Principal, Minneapolis Public Schools Board Chair, Community Involvement Programs</i>
<i>Marcy Conrad Nutt</i>	<i>Architect</i>
<i>Rick Person</i>	<i>St. Paul Public Works</i>
<i>Eric Adams</i>	<i>3M</i>
<i>Rev. Doug Mitchell</i>	<i>Associate Pastor for Mission & Outreach, Westminster Presbyterian Church Board Member, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Board Member, Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association</i>
<i>Penny Hunt</i>	<i>Retired Former Vice President, Medtronic Foundation and Community Affairs</i>
<i>Duncan King</i>	<i>Partner, Prime Investments Private Equity Board member, Humaninet</i>
<i>Jessie Wright</i>	<i>High School Student</i>

Elise Howell

Computer Consultant

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Chief Operations Manager, Third Way Network

Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation Executive Director Lee Blons has extensive experience in the development and oversight of supportive housing. She oversaw the development of numerous supportive housing programs for homeless families, homeless adults with chemical dependency and homeless adults with mental illness in Columbus, Ohio. She also was the Executive Director of the largest homeless shelter program in Richmond, Virginia. In Minneapolis, her position at CCHT (now Aeon) included the oversight and evaluation of their supportive housing programs for homeless youth and homeless adults. At PCNF for five years, she oversaw the development of Lydia Apartments programming and the selection of the social service provider for the homeless adults with disabilities.

Community Research Process

The Housing 150 Taskforce conducted a series of meetings with experts in the field of housing and homelessness to educate itself and to develop a conceptual model for supportive housing.

Tom Fulton from the Family Housing Fund and Denise Warren from the Corporation for Supportive Housing provided an overview of the housing need in the community and the focus on supportive housing development to end homelessness in our community.

Laura Kadwell, Director of Long Term Homelessness at Minnesota Housing Finance Agency and Jane Lawrenz, Minnesota Department of Human Services shared the goals and priorities in the “Heading Home Minnesota” plan to end long term homelessness in Minnesota. State funding from DHS or MHFA is focused on those that are long term homeless and on housing programs that offer extensive services, but do not mandate services. They recommended filling the housing gaps in Minneapolis with supportive housing development for the following populations; homeless youth, chronically homeless adults with chemical dependency or mental illness or ex-offenders. A supportive housing development for homeless families was not a particular priority.

Cathy ten Broeke, Coordinator for the Heading Home Hennepin, Carol Kelleher, Hennepin County Housing, Community Works & Transit, and Don Sabre, Program Manager, Housing and Homeless Initiatives, Hennepin County Department of Human Services and Public Health shared the priorities of Heading Home Hennepin and the specific priorities of Hennepin County. Heading Home Hennepin has set a goal of 5,000 new units for housing in the next 10 years and new homeless supportive housing is definitely needed. There is a particular need for supportive housing developments targeting homeless youth or ex-offenders. The County provides service funding for a number of supportive housing programs, both single site or scattered sites. From the County Human Services Department, there is a priority on housing that offers extensive

services but does not mandate services. Capital funding from the County is available for a range of types of housing.

Based on this input from the State and County leadership on homelessness, Housing 150 Taskforce decided that the best fit for the two congregations and for the particular site on Nicollet Avenue would be supportive housing for young people who are homeless or aging out of foster care.

To learn about the existing housing programs targeting homeless youth, Housing 150 members visited four existing supportive youth housing sites in the Twin Cities: Lindquist Apartments (The Link/RS Eden) and St. Barnabas Apartments (YouthLink/Aeon) in Minneapolis, Booth House (Salvation Army) and Seventh Landing (RS Eden) in St. Paul. Service models at the sites were similar in many ways, but differences were evident as well. Seventh Landing was unique in their incorporation of supported employment in a coffee shop on the first floor, where the residents were offered the opportunity to learn basic job skills. Along with identifying the best elements of existing programs, we sought to identify gaps the current range of housing programs.

Along with the housing tours, PCNF staff and Housing 150 members met with and interviewed other key county, state and federal staff to get input on program design and possible project funding. Staff met with Judy Paul from Hennepin County, Beth Holger from the State Office of Economic Opportunity, Sara Bergen and Tom Koon from the Minneapolis HUD office.

Out of this community research of funders and practitioners, the Housing 150 Taskforce developed a model for supportive housing which will emphasize employment by the creation of a “Work Fast” retail component. The Taskforce also embraced the model of extensive services through an engagement rather than mandate. The Taskforce asked four agencies interested in partnering on this type of supportive housing development to submit proposals explaining their qualifications and experience. After careful review and follow up interviews, YouthLink was selected as the best match to the service provider for Nicollet Square.

Housing 150 will pursue a partner in the employment arena in much the same manner.