



Minnesota **H O U S I N G** Partnership

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\$10,000 Award Ensures Perpetually Affordable Housing in Madelia

Mobile Village Looks Forward to Cooperative Ownership

St. Paul, Minn. (June 11, 2007) – On June 5th, Minnesota Housing Partnership (MHP) awarded Northcountry Cooperative Foundation (NCF) a \$10,000 grant to begin conversion of the Madelia Mobile Village into a cooperatively owned community. MHP's grant will fund resident-support and education initiatives as well as a leadership-infrastructure assessment to ensure the resident group eventually becomes independently successful.

"Residents living in traditional manufactured home parks are vulnerable to displacement and have little or no control over the management of their communities," explained Nancy St. Germaine, housing community organizer at Northcountry Cooperative. "We want to create a community that is safe, affordable, and a place of pride for residents. The ultimate goal is for residents to gain control and ownership of the park. MHP's grant will help us achieve this."

Manufactured housing in Minnesota and throughout the country is a significant portion of the overall affordable housing stock. 50,000 units of unsubsidized affordable housing are located in 1,000 manufactured home parks across the state. According to St. Germaine, "converting a park to cooperative ownership ensures long-term affordability and protects an important source of market-rate affordable housing."

Notably, the project has already received letters of support from Madelia Lions Club, All Parks Alliance for Change, Minnesota Valley Action Council (MVAC), City of Madelia, and the Madelia Police Department. Judd Schultz, MVAC housing services director, said in his letter of support that the coop initiative not only will help retain a valuable source of affordable housing, but it will also secure "stability of tenure for park residents which creates a more permanent resident workforce in the community."

The Minnesota Housing Partnership is a statewide nonprofit organization that advances the preservation and creation of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income people as a means of strengthening communities and families. MHP provides local governments and nonprofit housing organizations access to loans, grants, and technical expertise to plan and construct housing, in addition to educating people on sound housing policies.

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