

# Welcome to MICAH's Anoka County 2023 Virtual Bus Tour!

Tour Guide: Sue Watlov Phillips, Ex. Director, MICAH

MICAH's Anoka County Community Virtual Bus Tour



# Welcome & Faith Reflection

**Host :**

Sue Baysden  
MICAHA Board Member

**Faith Reflection :**

Pastor Kristina Hill  
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church, Ramsey MN

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# Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing



**MICAH lives out the prophetic vision that calls us  
"to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God."  
(Micah 6:8).**

**MICAH envisions a metropolitan area where everyone  
without exception has a safe, decent, accessible, and  
affordable home.**



## MICAH's Anoka County Community Virtual Bus Tour



# Rules of the Bus

- Our meeting is being recorded so others can review it later.
- Please stay muted until you are called on.
- Raise your hand physically or in the participants menu, or in the chat for question.
- If at any point the audio or video presentation seems choppy, try turning off your camera feed.
- No spitballs!

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*Are you ready?*

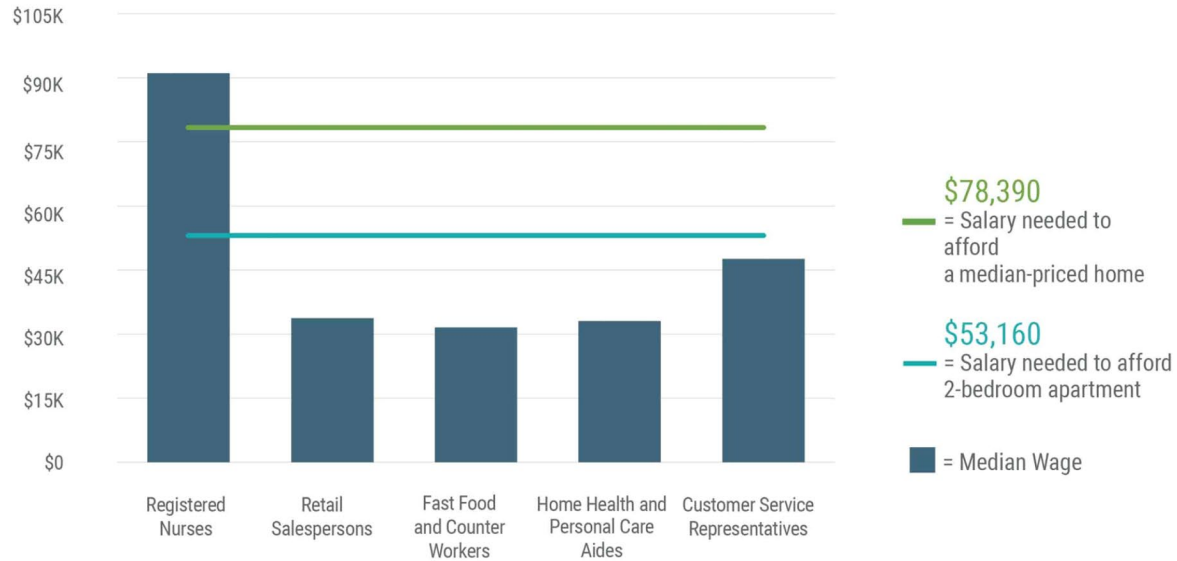
**Let's get on board!**

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The cost of housing is out of reach for many working Minnesotans.

THE REGION'S MOST IN-DEMAND JOBS vs ANOKA'S COST OF HOUSING



Cost-Burdened # of households in Anoka County	Renter:	11,405
	Owner:	18,918
	Total:	30,323

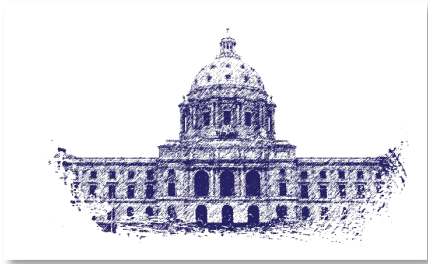
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**Kim  
Pettman**





**Presenter:**  
Representative Matt Norris



Matt's a Midwestern Democrat and proud Blaine resident. Born and raised in the northern suburbs, he graduated from the University of Minnesota with his business and law degrees.

Matt's already proven he can get bills passed at the Capitol. And every time, he's worked with Republicans and Democrats to do it.

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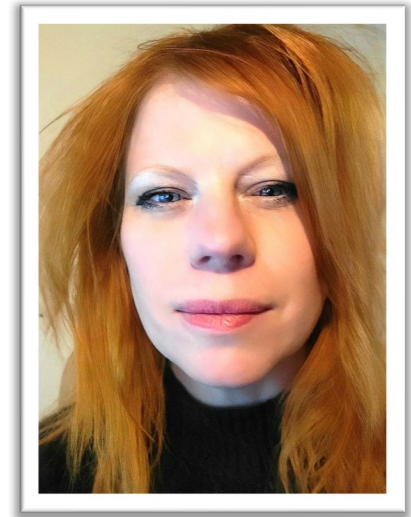
*Thank You,*  
Representative Matt Norris

[https://www.anokacountymn.gov/  
rep.matt.norris@house.mn.gov](https://www.anokacountymn.gov/rep.matt.norris@house.mn.gov)

**Let's get to our next presenter!**

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**Presenter:**

Jennifer Crotteau, Lead Program Planner Anoka County  
Community Social Services and Behavioral Health

Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program is administered by Minnesota Housing Finance Agency to provide grant funds to encourage and support innovation at the county or regional multi-county level to establish a total system designed to serve and possibly redesign the homeless support system.

Funds are used for many purposes including preventing an episode of homelessness, shortening the length of time someone may be homeless in a shelter, and eliminating repeat episodes of homelessness.

Each funded agency designs the project that best meets the needs within their own community.

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*Thank You,*  
Jennifer Crotteau

<https://www.anokacountymn.gov/4178/Behavioral-Health-Services>

[Jennifer.Crotteau@anokacountymn.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Crotteau@anokacountymn.gov)

763-324-1846

**Let's get to our next stop!**

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**Kim  
Pettman**





**Presenter:**  
Ms Kim Pettman,  
Masters of Library and Information Science

Adventures in trying to find and stay in accessible and affordable housing, with healthcare and special transportation needs, and then being stuck in the healthcare system.

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*Thank You,*  
**Kim Pettman**

**Let's get to our next stop!**

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**Kim  
Pettman**





ANOKA-HENNEPIN  
**SCHOOLS**  
*A future without limit*

**Presenter:**

Heidi Geiss, Anoka-Hennepin School District  
McKinney Vento and Foster Care Liaison

Children and youth who experience homelessness have the right to receive a free, appropriate, public education – ensured by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001.

This law requires schools to remove barriers to enrollment, attendance and success for homeless students.



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*Thank You,*

**Anoka-Hennepin Schools District  
McKinney Vento and Foster Care**

<https://www.ahschools.us/anokahennepin>

[Heidi.Geiss@ahschools.us](mailto:Heidi.Geiss@ahschools.us)

**Let's get to our next stop!**

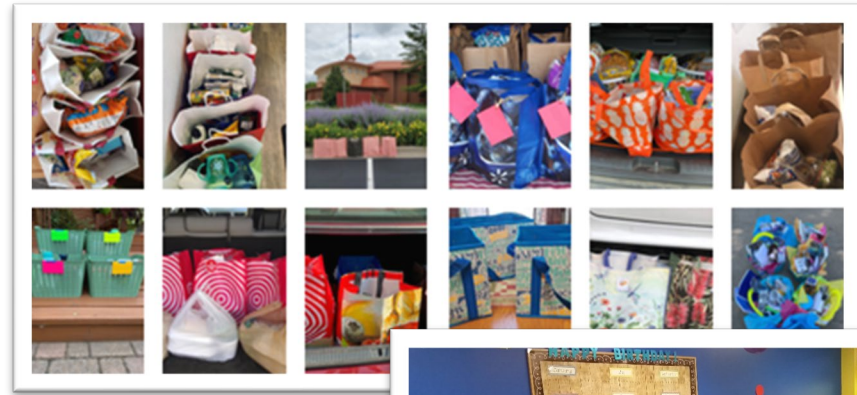
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**Kim  
Pettman**





**Presenter:**  
David Frei, Executive Director

Family Promise helps families experiencing housing insecurity to build a lasting foundation of housing independence through shelter, stabilization, and prevention programs for families with minor children in Anoka County.

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*Thank You,*

# Family Promise in Anoka County

[www.familypromiseanoka.org](http://www.familypromiseanoka.org)

[Director@familypromiseanoka.org](mailto:Director@familypromiseanoka.org)

[Info@familypromiseanoka.org](mailto:Info@familypromiseanoka.org)

We are looking for volunteer budget mentors to walk alongside our guest families as they work to build a solid financial plan.

# Let's get to our next stop!

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**Kim  
Pettman**



# Park Plaza Cooperative

**Presenter:**

Natividad Seefeld

President, Park Plaza Cooperative Board of Directors



Park Plaza Cooperative is a resident-owned manufactured home community in Fridley, Mn.

We are a terrific neighborhood for people who like a suburban setting that's an easy drive to the Twin Cities.

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*Thank You,*

# **Park Plaza Cooperative**

<http://www.parkplaza.coop>

1260 Onondaga St. NE, Fridley, MN 55432

# **Let's get to our last stop!**

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**Kim  
Pettman**







# Updates on Federal and State Legislation

Sue Watlov Phillips, MICAH Executive Director,  
Board Member of National Coalition of the Homeless

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# MINNESOTA POLICY



## MICAH's 2023-24 Legislative Priorities Include:

1. Ensure the voice and power of people who have experienced homelessness and or housing crises are at every decision make table, design, implementation, evaluation of homeless programs and housing.
2. Work with families impacted by Lead Poisoning on Lead Safe Homes program implementation, to protect our children from lead paint poisoning.
3. Racial Equity and protection of Civil Rights in all Homeless and Housing Programs and support systems.
4. Preserve and create safe, decent accessible affordable housing (rental, shared, & homeownership) for people with incomes under 30% median income.
5. Support livable incomes for people who are employed, unemployed and on public assistance. Universal Basic Income, Child Tax Credits, Renter's Credit, Rental Assistance.
6. Ensure we are a welcoming community in creating housing opportunities that provide second chances and mercy for those who have struggled with addiction, mental and/or physical health, criminal, and/or rental issues.
7. MICAH will be actively involved with Homes For All process in developing and passing the 2024 Session priorities.





# Minnesota 2023 Legislative Successes

- [2023 MCH Legislative Outcomes](#)
- [Summary by the MN Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)
- [Summary by MN Housing](#)



## FEDERAL POLICY

### Bring America Home NOW! Campaign

The National Coalition for the Homeless is spearheading Bring America Home NOW: A Comprehensive Grassroots Campaign to End Homelessness in the U.S.

Led by people who have themselves experienced homelessness, we will focus on the passage of federal legislation aimed at addressing the interconnected solutions to the decades-long epidemic of homelessness in the United States.

#### The campaign focuses on 6 major policy areas:

1. **Housing** is a basic human right.
2. **Health** and homelessness are inextricably linked: a safe, stable home is the prerequisite of health and well-being.
3. **Livable incomes** are essential to prevent and homelessness to ensure stability in housing.
4. **Education and training** can play a critical role for - children, youth, and adults - in equipping people with the knowledge and skills needed for economic mobility.
5. **Civil Rights** - Homelessness is a civil rights issue. People experiencing homelessness should not be criminalized or victims of hate crimes.
6. **Racial Equity** - Homelessness is a racial justice issue in the United States and racial equity is a key housing justice.





## **FEDERAL POLICY**

### **IMMEDIATE REQUESTS**

Ensure the highest level of funding for housing in the FY24 spending bill.

### **IMMEDIATE THREATS**

Push back against anti-homelessness rhetoric and legislation at the federal, state, & local level.

### **LONG TERM SOLUTIONS**

#### **Unhoused Bill of Rights**

The legislation calls on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to declare the unhoused crisis a public health emergency and calls for rigorous federal investments into homeless assistance programs, affordable housing initiatives, and wraparound services that keep people permanently housed.

#### **Ending Homelessness Act (H.R.4496)**

Establishes a universal voucher program to ensure every eligible household can receive rental assistance. Provides \$10.5 billion to build homes affordable to people with the greatest needs  
Bans source of income discrimination and provides funding for fair housing enforcement.



# Faith in Action

We can find no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing.

*- Pope Francis 9/24/15*



We must demand all our systems and organizations do what is needed to guarantee everyone, without exception, has a safe, decent, accessible, and affordable home.