



Housing Opportunities Made Equitable (HOME Bill)

Praise God!

The voice of the faith community was heard & prayers answered as together we passed the

Housing Opportunities Made Equitable (HOME Bill)

and Governor Mark Dayton signed it into Law on

May 1, 2014 (National Day of Prayer)

MICAHA was asked, with Integrated Community Solutions, to coordinate the legislative work with the African American Leadership Forum, Build Wealth MN, and a diverse group of 30 organizations. **This law will assist People of Color and American Indians with the opportunity to become homeowners through more accessible mortgage financing and enhanced financial capacity training to increase probability of successful homeownership.**

(See insert for HOME Bill history)



HOME Bill Supporters with Representative Karen Clark

MICAHA’s work on the HOME Bill contributed to MN Housing designating over \$10.5 Million toward HOME Bill activities in 2014. Those funds were awarded* to:

Targeted Mortgage Opportunity Program

\$10,000,000 (\$2,000,000 Insuring Loss Reserve):

- 1) Build Wealth Minnesota (Build Wealth)
- 2) SHOP Home Mortgage (SHOP)
- 3) Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity (Habitat)

Enhance Financial Capacity Program

\$650,000 (11 Organizations will be funded):

- 1) Build Wealth Minnesota [HOME CO 4 Organization-African American]
- 2) Bii Gii Winn CDC (Native American)

Enhance Financial Capacity Program (continued)

- 3) CLUES [Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio] (Latino/Hispanic)
- 4) Hmong American Partnership [HAP] (Asian/Island Pacific/Refugee)
- 5) NeDA [Neighborhood Development Alliance] (Latino/Mexican/Hispanic)
- 6) Project for Pride in Living [PPL] (African Immigrant/African American/Native/Asian)
- 7) Three Rivers CAP
- 8) Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

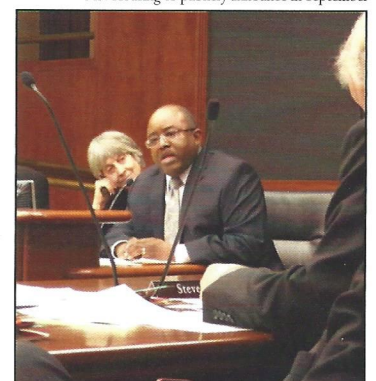
*MN Housing to publicly announce in September



David McGee, (Build Wealth MN) and Sue Watlov Phillips (MICAHA) answering questions on the Housing Opportunities Made Equitable (HOME) Bill HF2112 and SF2638



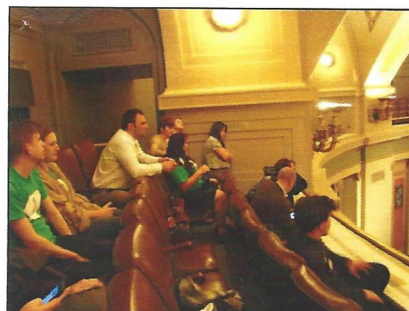
Hector Garcia (Chicano Latino Affairs Council) testifying on the HOME Bill and Representative Karen Clark



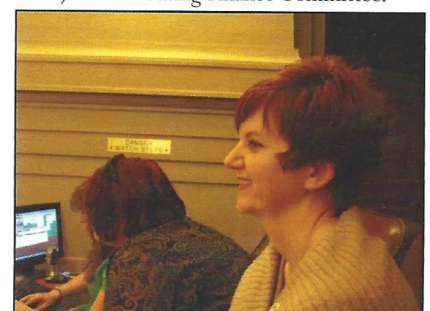
David McGee (Build Wealth MN) and Representative Karen Clark (Home Bill House author) at the Housing Finance Committee.

\$100 Million Bonding Bill Passes!

MICAHA, a member of HOMES For All, supported the \$100 Million Bonding Bill to build and rehabilitate affordable housing, as it passed the House Floor at 3AM.



HOMES For All Supporters Prior to Bond Bill passing



Bonding Bill Passes; Amanda Kappes, SW Organizer; amanda@micah.org

Central Corridor in Saint Paul

Green Line Opens



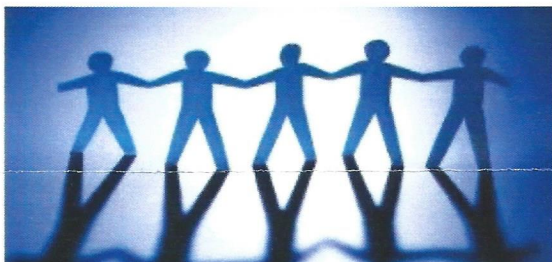
John Slade, MICAH Organizer
Ramsey and Washington Counties
slade@micah.org

John Slade, MICAH Organizer praises the Stops For Us Coalition, as together we secured additional stops on the Green Line (Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Line) and for our continued commitment to ensure the vitality and strength of St. Paul's residents, businesses and neighborhoods.

MICAH received a Certificate of Appreciation from Stops For Us Coalition for our work along the Central Corridor.



Minneapolis Civil Rights



COMMUNITY VOICES FORUM

The Future of Housing
in Our Community



Myron Orfield, Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity; Libby Starling, Met Council; Cherie Shoquist, Department of Community Planning & Economic Development; Anthony Newby, Neighborhoods Organizing for Change (NOC); Bill Ziegler, Little Earth Residents Association; Sue Watlov Phillips, MICAH and members and staff of the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission

Northeast Chapter—Ramsey & Washington Counties



MICAH NE Chapter
Leadership Team

We are a group, representing diverse faith communities, living in both Ramsey and Washington counties, and meeting monthly, alternating between the city halls of Mahtomedi and White Bear Lake. We cultivate relationships with city, state and Met Council officials and administrators.

During 2014 we have urged the city of Mahtomedi to include affordable housing in the development of a former school site and supported the city's plan for a totally affordable apartment building for seniors on a former restaurant site. We continue to work with and support St. Andrew's Resource Center, Hope for the Journey Home, and Solid Ground as each helps homeless families toward permanent and affordable housing. We support and encourage the building of Habitat for Humanity homes in our communities; one is being built in White Bear Lake this year. We have representation on the Citizens Advisory Council for the Gateway Corridor and advocate for transit to make access to jobs available for the folks currently living in affordable neighborhoods as well as making future affordable housing possible. We continue to advocate at the state level through several agencies and organizations such as MICAH and JRLC.

Housing For All—North Hennepin & Anoka Counties



Housing For All Members



Carol LaFleur speaking at Homes for All Breakfast
NW Organizer carol@micah.org



MICAH Co-sponsors Diversity Fair and
Tater Days in Brooklyn Park

South Chapter—Dakota & Hennepin Counties



Some 262 residents face displacement from Nicollet Ridge Apartments in Burnsville, which, under new ownership, is ending its participation in the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program. (Photo by John Gessner)

Recently the Nicollet Ridge Apartment complex in Burnsville was sold to a Philadelphia-based real estate trust called Resource Residential, and **262 residents faced displacement when the new management began ending participation in the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program.** Ninety-four of the 339 apartments at Nicollet Ridge were under this program and provided well situated decent, safe, affordable housing for people with low incomes, disabilities, the elderly and other disadvantaged groups.

Jennifer Keogh, Dakota Co. CDA's Housing Assistance Director and Rebecca Bowers, Dakota Co. Housing Resource Developer, sprang into action and called a meeting of local community partners. **MICAH represented the faith community in this collaboration that began to address this serious situation.** 42 of the households faced losing their homes between the end of May and the end of June. An event with Nicollet Ridge tenants was quickly planned to bring together information,

resources, community connections and the means to determine the housing needs of these households. Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) interviewed some of the impacted residents. **MICAH began to alert the faith community to the potential need for assisting these households with packing and moving of their belongings.**

Living up to its prophetic name, MICAH prepared to bring this situation to the public's attention through the newspaper. With the vacancy rate currently under 2% these people would have little opportunity to remain in their community, if they could even locate another unit.

SunThisWeek Newspaper carried an article covering an interview with Mark Ulfers, executive director of Dakota Co. CDA and the situation received front page coverage by the Star Tribune, including the personal situation of several of the affected tenants.

As this situation unfolded Brian Kroker, Regional VP of Resource Residential, responded to a letter from SMRLS stating that they were unaware of the **disparate impact** that their business decision was having. They entered into **rent negotiations with the CDA** and proposed a rent structure that the CDA accepted. **The impacted tenants are having to cover the increased rent themselves, but are relieved that they will be able to continue living at Nicollet Ridge. The highest rent increase was \$50.**

The Nicollet Ridge renovation plan will continue and the CDA has been told that another rent increase will take place next year as the property is upgraded.

According to Jennifer Keogh, "We were able to save many families from ending in homelessness; a great success story. This would not have happened without your (MICAH's) assistance and the collaborative effort from our community partners."

Juneteenth—Minneapolis



Jill, MN Housing Staff, and La Shella

La Shella Sims, Lead Organizer
lashella@micah.org

Rosalind Sampson, Accessibility Organizer
rozz@micah.org

Jill Hentges,
Metro Transit

Kelsey Dawson Walton,
Community Engagement
Penn Avenue Community Works



La Shella, Jill, Rosalind, and Kelsey

MICAH's Spring Celebration at Elim Church

Together, With God's Blessings, We are Bringing Minnesota HOME!

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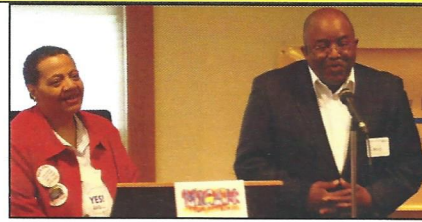
ADL Pier Design Inc
Elyse Ruiz

Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC)
Nate Shotley
Brotherhood Brew



Jean MacFarland

MICAH Board President (2008-2014)



HOME Bill History-LaShella and David



Senator Hawj

HOME Bill Senate Author



HOME Bill Supporters recognized



Julia Dinsmore,

Child of God: Not Those People



Peter Brown, Sen. Hawj,
Petrina Walter, www.asaseyaa.net



Everyone Enjoying a Great Dinner



Brotherhood Brew and Pastor Becky
www.brotherhoodmn.org

MICAH

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Saint Paul, MN 55103

Email: Info@micah.org

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<https://www.facebook.com/MICAH.twin.cities>

Summer 2014

Please continue to pray and support us!

RISK **Common Good** **HOME** **PERSISTENCE** *a full and inclusive range of housing choices* **Fairness**
Hope **Equity** **MICAHA** **Justice** **Help** **Trust** **Affordable Housing** **WE CAN DO BETTER**
Undeering Racism **VALUES** **WISDOM** **Solidarity** **Power to change** **ENHANCING AND PRESERVING NEIGHBORHOOD**
What does God require of you, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. MICAH 6:8
MICAH METROPOLITAN INTERFAITH COUNCIL ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING