



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
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**Minnesota Housing Finance Association Press Conference:
Announcing Historic State Investment in Affordable Housing**
Remarks Delivered by: Tim Marx, President and CEO, Catholic Charities
October 23, 2014

On behalf of the 6,000 people who rely on the Dorothy Day Center each year, the 250 people who will be there tonight—most on thin mats inches apart—and for those who have been turned away and have been put outside in the heart of our capital city and in the shadow of our capitol: thank you.

Thank you, Governor Dayton, Senator Stumpf, Representative Hausman, Commissioner Tingerthal, and all of your dedicated colleagues in public service for your leadership.

Thanks as well to the broad-based coalition which works tirelessly for Homes For All, who believes that the solution to homelessness is a home.

This award today will allow the broad coalition which supports a new vision for the Dorothy Day Center to bring a proven model of home, hope, and opportunity to Saint Paul.

Two years ago, on the **other** side of that mighty Mississippi, we built Higher Ground, now a proven model of dignified shelter and a path to a home and stability. In just two years, we have provided permanent homes to 200 people, most of whom had been homeless for 10 years and more. These friends of ours were not only homeless, but were using expensive ambulances and other emergency services. Now—with hundreds of thousands of dollars of emergency costs avoided—they have a home and hope. Some of them and their friends are now part of a community running club—“Mile in My Shoes”—which promotes good health...and reminds all of us that we too, could have been...or could be...“in their shoes.”

It is this combination of compassion, a business-like approach, and innovation that appeals to business leaders like Matt Kramer, President of the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce who, along with Carleen Rhodes President of the Saint Paul Foundation, were co-chairs of Mayor Coleman’s community task force on the Dorothy Day Center.

With this award, and what we have learned, and what we know all of us together can accomplish...**we will bring even higher ground to our capital city.**

But we—all of us together—must not rest until our job is done...until every Minnesotan has a home.

The solution to homelessness is a home.

Thank you.