

Houses of Hope Fund

Overview: *On the 150th anniversary of The House Of Hope Presbyterian Church, the church created an endowed fund to create affordable housing in the church's neighborhood.*

We at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church believe that God has generously given us many blessings and talents, and we want to share them with other people less fortunate than ourselves. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the congregation's founding, we propose a specific project which will enable us to use the advantages God has given us. Knowing that God wants all of us to use our abilities as fully as possible for as many people as possible, we intend to establish a dedicated fund within our existing endowment whose purpose will be to improve the lives of thousands of people over the next 150+ years through provisions for better housing.

OBJECTIVE: To establish, through the membership of The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, a dedicated fund for the purpose of partnering with existing agencies and non-profit organizations to upgrade, improve, construct, and promote affordable housing for low to moderate income individuals and families in the neighborhood of the House of Hope Church (especially to the north and northeast), the City of St. Paul, and the East metropolitan area. Further, we foresee this fund as a major vehicle for involving the energy, talents, insights, and financial resources of members of the House of Hope Church and larger community.

PURPOSES:

Provide financial support for the following types of affordable housing projects;

Improving existing single and multiple family housing;

Constructing new single and multiple family housing;

Housing for the elderly;

Transitional housing;

Group homes for the physically and mentally handicapped;

Support services such as counseling.

Provide volunteer opportunities for members of the congregation in the following areas:

Support services such as counseling and mentoring;

Hands-on participation in building or renovating affordable housing;

Training and mentoring or entrepreneurs starting businesses related to affordable housing such as child care, maintenance and repair;

Advocacy for affordable housing at local, county and state government agencies;

Volunteer activities and services with agencies and non-profit organizations with the Houses of Hope Fund partners.

Focus: In order to best serve our community and to avoid duplication of efforts, the fund will work with and through existing agencies, groups, non-profit organizations, congregations, etc. that share our concerns and purposes and that have specific expertise in the area of affordable housing, such as:

Habitat for Humanity, The Wilder Foundation, The YWCA, Common Bond, Project for Pride in Living, The Family Housing Fund.

The fund would serve the following geographical areas: Summit-University, Frogtown, City of Saint Paul, East Metro. The intent is that neither the fund nor the church will ever own, operate, or manage any affordable housing units, projects, or programs.

FUNDING: A three-pronged approach will be used to provide the initial funding. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the House of Hope, a three-year pledge campaign will attempt to raise \$1,500,000 from the congregation.

The pledges from the congregation will be matched dollar for dollar from two sources – a single large donor or donors and the church's unrestricted endowment funds. In order to reach the goal of \$4,500,000, the congregation must contribute \$1,500,000 over the three-year period. The final amount of the fund will depend entirely upon the level of giving from the church membership.