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Perpetual. Sustainable. Homeownership.

# CLCLT NEWS

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## Become a Member of the CLCLT!

### *What are the benefits of CLCLT Membership?*

Your tax-deductible contribution helps create perpetually affordable homes in Minneapolis and gives you a say in the direction of the City of Lakes Community Land Trust through voting at our annual meeting.

*Now is a great time to become a CLCLT member!*

*Join us at [www.clclt.org](http://www.clclt.org).*

For more information or to join, visit [clclt.org](http://clclt.org) or call Jeff Washburne at: 612.594.7147

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Donate Online at:  
[www.clclt.org](http://www.clclt.org)!

## Homeowner in the Spotlight: Toyia Verdell

March 2014 marked a milestone in the history of the CLCLT - the sale of its first ever, solely developed property. The household that purchased the home on Sheridan Avenue North is that of Toyia Verdell and her two daughters, Tamaria and Ta'Rya, ages 16 and 9.



*Toyia with her daughters, Tamaria and Ta'Rya.*

Toyia was unfamiliar with the CLCLT and its mission until she found the listing for the home on a public property-listing site. This prompted Toyia to research the CLCLT whereupon she discovered "you guys were all over the place." Toyia also didn't realize the publicity that would come with purchasing this particular home when in January of 2014 the CLCLT hosted an open house that was attended by many city, county and state employees and elected officials, including Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, Senator Al Franken and State Representative Raymond Dehn. Toyia said the experience was somewhat unnerving due to the large number of people present, but in the end it was an experience she will not regret. "Everyone was here to support us and our house."

*(continued...)*

*(Verdell, continued)*

Toyia also mentioned how much she enjoyed meeting the individuals who actually worked on the rehab of the property.

When asked what drew Toyia back to the North Minneapolis area after having rented in the northwest suburbs prior to homeownership, Toyia stated, "I love Minneapolis. I grew up here. It's beautiful. I think it's still family-oriented." Toyia also pointed out



*(L:R) Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, CLCLT Executive Director Jeff Washburne, US Senator Al Franken and Toyia on the front porch during the Open House.*

that on her block the other homeowners take great pride in their homes as well as in their community at-large by maintaining their homes and lawns, hosting family get-togethers, and planning and hosting neighborhood events. Toyia recognizes that this community-based attitude is not the case for other blocks in her area, but she refuses to give up on the idea of community stabilization and improvement. "Being born and raised here I know what Minneapolis is capable of and I want to see [the city] get back there."

## 10th Annual Reunion Picnic

We were delighted to see homeowners, members, partners, and friends of the CLCLT at Theodore Wirth Lake Beach this year. Even though the humidity was high, it was still a wonderful afternoon filled with food, conversation, games, and a lot of magic, thanks to Bruce Cleland from *Magic by Bruce*. The CLCLT would like to specifically thank State Farm for their generous sponsorship as well as Eddie Martin, the CLCLT Youth Council and our STEP-UP intern, Asma, for their assistance with the event. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year. For more photos please visit the CLCLT Facebook page.



## Save the Date! CLCLT 2014 Annual Meeting October 20 ~ 5 - 8PM



Make plans to join us for a brief "year-in-review", the election of new board members, food and fun! More details will be coming soon, so continue to check us out on Facebook and visit our website, at [clclt.org](http://clclt.org) regularly for updates.



## STEP-UP Summer Interns

Each year the City of Minneapolis offers a summer jobs program to youth ages 14-21, called STEP-UP. The STEP-UP program recruits, trains and employs youth in a wide range of jobs including businesses, nonprofits and public agencies. This summer, CLCLT welcomed two young people to our small, but mighty, staff.



*Name:* Anthony Campagnola; 14 years

*Role:* Assist Program Director with property rehab scopes of work, and general program assistance.

*Enjoyed most:* Learning how the real world works.

*Extracurriculars:* Civil Air Patrol, swimming and track.

*Future Career:* A career in the military that involves flying; such as a US Navy aviator or an Air Force para-jumper.



*Name:* Asma Shafi; 16 years

*Role:* Assist Homeowner & Community Engagement Manager with in-kind donation requests, homeowner outreach and Youth Council development and coordination.

*Enjoyed most:* Organizing events and knowing that you were responsible for setting things up.

*Extracurriculars:* Tennis, track and National Honor Society

*Future Career:* Can I get paid to travel?