In the Corcoran neighborhood of Minneapolis, there is a home where two little girls are having supper at their child-size picnic table, while a little boy rides up and down the sidewalk on his bike. This is the home of Rishona Millard-Dernell (or “Shoni” as she likes to be called) and her three children, Ayotzinemi, Lila and Benny. The joy their new CLCLT home brings to this family is immediately obvious.

Shoni is a native of the area having grown up in the Powderhorn Park neighborhood and was always confident that she wanted to settle in the area as an adult. However, homeownership was not something she had considered until after having children. “I moved 10 times in the past 5 years. It was an exciting idea ... a similar situation was able to buy a home with an affordability grant from CLCLT. Shoni remembers thinking “Wow! This is possible.” After attending an orientation, Shoni began working with a CLCLT partner lender in order to develop a plan that would result in homeownership. After two years her efforts were rewarded, when Shoni closed on her home in March of this year.

Shoni credits the knowledge of the CLCLT staff as well as their constant support in helping her to pursue her goal of homeownership. “We were...a team,” which was both comforting as well
as empowering, Shoni now finds herself considering her place in the community and says that owning a home in the neighborhood makes her feel that much more invested in the community’s future. “There is a big shift in perspective from having stable housing. Moving around so much takes a lot of energy. Having somewhere stable allows you to think about bigger goals.”

Thank you for Joining Us at the 5th Annual CLCLT Fundraiser!
This year marked the CLCLT’s 5th annual fundraiser “Coming Home – Opening Doors to New Futures” held at the International Market Square. CLCLT would like to thank our sponsors for their generous support including: Family Housing Fund, Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly LLP, Stockwell Home Selling Team, Sunrise Banks, US Bank, Bremer Bank, Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation, Mahoney Ulbrich Christiansen & Russ P.A., Northeast Bank, Sandy Green Realty and Twin Cities LISC. CLCLT would also like to thank our guest speaker, Devean George, Kevin Obsatz for his production of the first-ever CLCLT homeowner video, as well as all those who participated in our silent auction. This year’s event had over 180 attendees and generated $11,000 in net income. Thank you to all who contributed to making this year’s event a success.

Exciting News For 2014:
• As of early June 2014, the CLCLT will have assisted 185 households in obtaining affordable, sustainable homeownership in Minneapolis. The CLCLT expects to assist upwards of 200 households in achieving this same dream by year’s end.
• Recipient of $580,000 from Hennepin County as part of the Affordable Housing Incentive Fund. This funding will allow the CLCLT to assist 18-20 households obtain homeownership in the next year.
• CLCLT and CLT’s nationwide played supporting advocacy roles which were instrumental in obtaining $100 million housing bond approval from the legislature this year. A portion of these funds are available for community land trusts, including City of Lakes Community Land Trust.
• Complementing the 2-year, $200,000 Bank of America Neighborhood Builders Program are awards from the Otto Bremer Foundation, the Jay & Rose Phillips Family Foundation and Wells Fargo Foundation.