Teresa is a North Minneapolis resident who purchased her home through Neighborhood Housing Services of Minneapolis and has been advocating for social welfare programs since the mid-1980’s. At that time Teresa was involved in protests and rallies that centered on budget cuts to the state and national welfare programs. Today, Teresa, a domestic violence survivor and 28-year employee of Home Free Missions Inc. (a shelter for battered women and children) now focuses on domestic violence education and advocacy.

As a Shelter Manager Teresa’s responsibilities include writing up Orders for Protection, attending court hearings for the Orders of Protection, and conflict resolution among residents. “We have 30 women and children at any given time and they don’t always get along.” During her decades-long work, Teresa has seen first-hand the effect limited funding for public and affordable housing programs has on a large number of battered women and children.

Domestic violence shelters offer temporary housing and support services to their residents who stay, on average, 18 days. In the past, battered women shelters were able to place their clients into public or Section 8 housing. Now, as a result of budget cuts to these programs, the options for these households after leaving the shelter are limited. Some move out of state, others are able to move into more permanent (yet-still) transitional housing, while the remainder return to the abusive household from which they fled. “Battered women and children generally receive assistance as their only source of income and without Section 8 or public housing assistance these households will never be able to afford renting.” (A 2015 study conducted by the Minnesota Coalition of Battered Women states that research indicates the lack of financial re-

For those who are able to find transitional housing, most must relocate to Ramsey County due to the limited number of programs currently available in Hennepin County; two programs have a religious component that sometimes prevents the women and children from being accepted, and the third offers priority to those households already staying in their shelter. As a result, Teresa wants to see more transitional housing and public assistance funding from and within Hennepin County specifically for battered women and children. “Hennepin County needs more transitional housing...separate

-sources as one of the most common reasons why domestic violence victims stay with, or return to, an abusive partner.)

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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.

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chased a Little Earth Homeownership Initiative property.
Darian shared with Senator Hayden that purchasing her home through the CLCLT provided her with an affordable housing payment that is stable and will not repeatedly increase like her previous rentals. The affordability of her monthly mortgage payment has allowed Darian to continue her secondary education which will provide future benefits for her family.

**Enzi,** a new 2016 CLCLT homeowner, met with several elected officials and shared "I have a house with a mortgage payment that is 20% cheaper than my rent for a one-bedroom apartment." **Joy,** a CLCLT homeowner that purchased in 2015, shared her experience of recurring increases in her rent that were pricing her out of Minneapolis. Through the CLCLT’s Homebuyer Initiated Program (HBP) she was able to purchase a home not only in a neighborhood of her choosing, but with a monthly housing payment that is more affordable than renting.

As homeowners spoke of their personal experiences with Representative Karen Clark, they also advocated for support of the coalition’s proposal to increase affordable homeownership opportunities. Representative Clark stated, "Deed tax can double ownership opportunities!" This was very encouraging for all advocacy and coalition attendees as it became apparent that Representative Clark understood the impact of this proposal and demonstrated to the group that their collective efforts were gaining momentum and support from their representatives.

**Cynthia,** who purchased her home in 2014, met with Senator Patricia Torres Ray and articulated not only her personal story and the benefits of the CLCLT programs, but detailed how our programs intersect with the supportive homeowner-centered model which has made the CLCLT successful in creating long-term homeownership opportunities. Cynthia shared that she had lived in the neighborhood where she ultimately purchased three different times, but it is only now as a homeowner that she is involved in her neighborhood and feels a part of the community. **Barbara,** a CLCLT homeowner since 2006 and who has a fixed income, shared that the CLCLT is the only way she was able to afford to buy a home.

Representative Frank Hornstein (representing the only Minneapolis district that does not currently have a CLCLT home) is a strong supporter of the CLCLT and endorses creating the first CLCLT home in his district. Ideas such as Hennepin County tax forfeiture properties, use of Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds, and bonding funds leveraged with CLCLT funds could potentially provide this opportunity. Representative Hornstein also shared that he was in support of co-authoring the bill in the House.

In 2015, the CLCLT assisted 40 new buyers, among those were 10 existing CLCLT property resales that required no further investment or additional public funding. Of the remaining 30 properties, the CLCLT was able to utilize a one-time investment that will assist multiple households - over generations - to purchase homes as well as create sustainability and stability for families and the community.

Senator Bobby Joe Champion, another long-time supporter of the CLCLT, is committed not only to supporting WHOM efforts at the State level, but has also committed to pushing the city for increased funding directly to the CLCLT. Senator Champion stated he, too, will support the bill WHOM is proposing.

The Day on the Hill gave power to many homeowners’ voices and showcased how essential it is to share their personal stories and the impact of CLT’s with our elected officials. The support for Community Land Trusts, and the CLCLT in particular, is growing, but we must continue our advocacy efforts to create affordable ownership opportunities city- and state-wide to ensure that our work can continue for perpetuity.