

## MILLS CHURCH COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

### EXAMPLES OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS



#### **Mayflower Community Congregational United Church of Christ – Creekside Commons**

106 East Diamond Lake Road Minneapolis, MN 55419  
*Creekside Commons developed by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative*

Mayflower has partnered with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative to build Creekside Commons, to advocate for affordable housing at the Capital, and to volunteer with families in shelter at local congregations.



#### **BACKGROUND**

*Provided by Susan Lampe, Mayflower Church member*

“It has been a joy working with Beacon” says Susan Lampe, a member of the Mayflower Church, “they walked along with us.” The Church owned two lots at the end of their parking lot. One lot had an existing house that provided emergency shelter that church members would keep supplied with sheets, towels, and other necessities. In time the property was in need of repairs and became too expensive to keep up. Congregational members felt they could do more to address affordable housing needs, and began exploring options. They got connected with the Plymouth Church Neighborhood Foundation, and began their relationship with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative.

It took some convincing of the Mayflower congregation to support a 30 unit workforce housing project on the two lots. The primary pushback was the loss of parking. And the immediate neighborhood was highly distressed about the proposal. Beacon attended many community meetings to answer questions and address their concerns. The community was also concerned that the Church would proselytize the residents, which was absolutely not the intent. “Once Creekside Commons was in place we have received zero complaints, and there the problems that the neighborhood were concerned about never materialized,” Lampe reflected.

Creekside Commons residents now benefit from a strong ongoing relationship with Mayflower Church members, supporting the children with homework help, and organizing a yearly backpack drive, providing 70 backpacks and school supplies for the students.

#### **Creekside Volunteer Opportunities**

- Educational and literacy support for children & youth, Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6-7:30 pm.
- Additional activities include back-to-school backpack giveaways, picnics, scholarships for the Mayflower Early Childhood Center, additional adult assistance as requested, and a children’s library.

#### **Creekside Programming**

Through the contribution of its congregants’ time, talent and resources, Mayflower UCC creates, executes and supports projects and on-going programs at Creekside Commons to achieve the following objectives:

- Create a secure and stable home environment within which Creekside Commons residents can continue to build and strengthen a workable foundation for their lives.
- Build connectedness between Creekside Commons residents and their surrounding communities, such that they create a strong sense of belonging and desire to integrate into their new residence and neighborhood.
- Empower residents to seek, locate and leverage the resources available to support them in living a full and joyful life.

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#### St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church

6 Interlachen Rd, Hopkins

Site developed by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

#### BACKGROUND

Provided by Fr. Jim Liekhus, Pastor

St. Gabriel was in need of capital improvements to their church. To raise additional funds they opted to sell an empty lot that they owned near their parking lot. They worked with a broker to put the lot on the market, and learned that it was too small for luxury housing, but they did receive bids from senior housing developers. Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative also expressed interest in the site, and ultimately purchased the property from the Church. After the fact, the Church learned that the City of Hopkins would have wanted to help guide or inform the future use of the site given their recent Comprehensive Plan update.

Once the site was sold to Beacon, the developer worked with the City of Hopkins to address the regulatory issues (rezoning variance, etc.) and to engage the community about the proposed project. The surrounding neighbors, including a senior housing residence next door, were able to review the plan and voice their input. Beacon is currently gathering the funding needed to build the project, and it is moving forward through the city's approval processes.

With the proceeds of the sale, the Church will be able to make the needed capital improvements. They are also glad to be able to support the creation of additional affordable housing at a time when so many people are in need.



#### Church of St. Therese – Deephaven Woods Senior Living

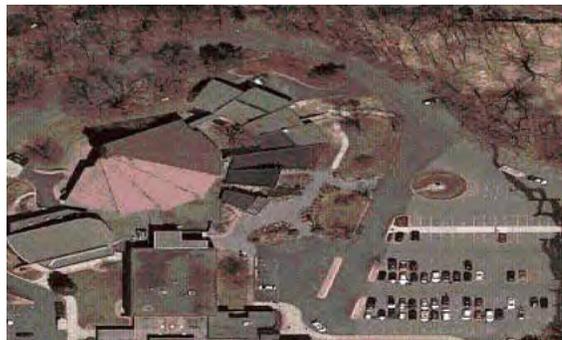
18025 Minnetonka Blvd, Deephaven

Senior housing owned and operated by Ebenezer

#### BACKGROUND

Deephaven Woods Senior Living is a senior living solution that offers Senior Apartment Rentals, Assisted Living, and Memory Care apartment homes, as well as Enhanced Care Suites in the heart of Deephaven, Minnesota, two blocks west of Highway 101. Deephaven Woods has beautifully designed apartments in sizes and floor plans to suit your lifestyle: studio, one bedroom, one bedroom plus den, and two bedroom apartments.

This unique community is part of the Church of St. Therese Campus and offers all the benefits of an active Catholic Parish and school, with the all activities and amenities of a senior living community.



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**St. Olaf Church**

215 S 8th Street, Minneapolis

*Partnering with Aeon*

