



News Release

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Neighborhood-Driven Project Makes Green Living Accessible and Community Safer

North Side Partners Win Prestigious MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award

September 10, 2010 (MINNEAPOLIS)—Project for Pride in Living (PPL) and the Minneapolis Police Department will be honored with a MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award for dramatically improving safety and quality of life in the Hawthorne neighborhood of Minneapolis at a ceremony on Thursday, September 16 at 3:30 p.m. The celebration will mark the grand opening of the first newly constructed “green” single-family home at 400 31st Avenue North. The home was built to meet Minnesota Green Communities, U.S. Green Building Council LEED certification and Health House standards.

The national award, sponsored by MetLife Foundation and administered by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), recognizes partnerships between community organizations and police departments that have reduced crime and spurred positive development in low-income communities. Brian Forseth, a financial planner with MetLife, and Andriana Abariotes, director of Twin Cities LISC, will present a \$15,000 Neighborhood Revitalization Award to the Minneapolis partners, which were selected from more than 700 applicants nationwide.

“Collaboration between community-based groups and police departments can reduce crime, stimulate housing and other development and improve quality of life in low-income neighborhoods,” said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. “The EcoVillage partnership is an exemplary model for groups nationwide facing similar challenges and opportunities. We are pleased to join LISC in recognizing and sharing this impressive work.”

“It was the courage and grit of the EcoVillage neighbors combined with the leadership of the many partners that has led to one of the most dramatic neighborhood turn-arounds in city history,” said Mayor R.T. Rybak.

“This award and open house are a result of the remarkable community partnerships that have been central to the EcoVillage development,” said Steve Cramer, PPL executive director. “Together, we are making green living affordable and a safer, more sustainable eco-friendly neighborhood a reality.”

The open house and award are important milestones for the EcoVillage, which is part of the City’s foreclosure recovery plan to maximize the impact of available resources in targeted geographic areas. The four-block residential area once had a high concentration of boarded and vacant residential buildings, as well as significant crime problems. By combining property redevelopment with a community policing strategy, and a focus on sustainable design and construction methods, the EcoVillage partners are transforming the area into a more family-friendly and eco-friendly community.

“Our city is a better place to live and work because of the outstanding efforts of these partners,” said Abariotes.

Event Information:

MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Award Ceremony & Open House

Location: 400 31st Avenue North, Minneapolis

Date/Time: Thursday, September 16, 2010, 3:30 p.m.

More on the EcoVillage: The EcoVillage cluster is a redevelopment of vacant and boarded homes in a four block area bounded by Lowry, 30th, and Lyndale avenues and 4th Street. EcoVillage plans call for: four single-family homes (two LEED-certified; the first certified homes in north Minneapolis), 50 to 100 new units of for-sale housing, and 40 to 50 units of new affordable rental housing, all developed to a new, higher standard of sustainability. The community’s redevelopment vision for this area is to create a new, welcoming and sustainable community. Community partners include: Hawthorne Neighborhood Council, PPL, the City of Minneapolis, Northside Home Fund, Mississippi Watershed Management, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, Tree Trust, The Home Depot Foundation and the Family Housing Fund. The development is supported by a \$500,000 grant from The Home Depot Foundation.

About PPL: Founded in 1972, PPL is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping low-income individuals and families improve their lives through services and programs that promote Housing Stability, Economic Advancement, Family Stability, and Youth Achievement. PPL’s mission is: *to work with lower-income individuals and families to achieve greater self-sufficiency through housing, employment training, support services, and education.*

About LISC: LISC is the nation’s leading community development support organization. In the Twin Cities, LISC has invested more than \$350 million to help create more than 8,500 affordable homes and apartments and 1 million square feet of commercial/retail space. As a national program, LISC’s Community Safety Initiative supports strategic alliances between police and community developers to reduce crime, disorder and fear in troubled neighborhoods; it has administered the MetLife Foundation Community-Police Partnership Awards since 2002. More information about LISC can be found at www.lisc.org.

About MetLife Foundation: MetLife Foundation, established by MetLife in 1976, supports health, education, civic and cultural programs. The Foundation is a long-time supporter of LISC’s community revitalization programs. In 1994, the Foundation made a \$1 million leadership grant to pilot the Community Safety Initiative. MetLife and the Foundation have also made below-market rate loans and grants of almost \$90 million to the organization. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.

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