Faith Leaders Present $1.785M to Nonprofits Addressing Affordable Housing

Group hopes to inspire others to join effort and raise $3-6M by yearend

St. Louis, Missouri – Nine local faith leaders gathered today at The Hub – Tabernacle Church, 3000 Prairie Ave., to present $1.785 million to Hearts Hands & Homes, an ecumenical Christian housing collaborative that provide services to disenfranchised families in the region through affordable rental units; wraparound social services to support stable housing; and first-time homeownership programs.

The faith leaders, who in September of 2021 began meeting regularly and dubbed themselves the Oikos Group, aim “to unite hearts and hands to rebuild St. Louis, in the hope that that their partnership would be an ecumenical witness to Christian faith, love of neighbor and a model for collaboration across dividing lines."

The group has set a 2023 goal to help raise $3-6 million for Hearts Hands & Homes. Oikos members and their affiliated churches today committed the first $1.785 million and now are encouraging other groups and individuals to donate to help address the affordable housing gap in St. Louis.

The Hearts Hands & Homes agencies:

- Catholic Charities – Pathways to Progress
- FT Holdings
- Lutheran Development Group
- Tabernacle Community Development Corp.
- The FAM
- St. Joseph Housing Initiative

Oikos members:

- Pastor Darren Casper, St. Louis Metro
- Reverend Jeff Cloeter, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church
- Pastor Greg Holder, The Crossing Church
- Bishop Michael Jones, Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church
- Pastor Brent Roam, One Family Church
- Most Reverend Mitchell Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis
- Reverend Dr. Clay Smith, Central Presbyterian Church
- Reverend Dr. Thurman Williams, Covenant Seminary, New City Fellowship
- Bishop Lawrence Wooten, Second Assistant Presiding Bishop of The Church of God in Christ; Pastor, Williams Temple Church of God in Christ
Gifts may be made through any of the Oikos Group member churches or through a dedicated online giving portal administered by the Archdiocese of St. Louis (https://giving.archstl.org/Product/office-of-ecumenical-and-interreligious-affairs/hearts-hands-homes-oikos-group-project).

Hearts Hands & Homes is partnering with The Carver Project to present Housing in St. Louis: Building a Hopeful Future, Thursday, May 11, 6:30-8:30 pm, at One Family Church, 4265 Shaw Blvd. Learn more about historical and current housing challenges, why the Church should care, and what is happening to build a more hopeful future. The event is free and open to the public but registration is required: https://sendmestlouis.org/events/buildingahopefulfuture/

Learn more about Hearts Hands & Homes agencies and the Oikos Group at https://www.oikosgroup.org/.

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Support documents attached to email.