

For Immediate Release

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Land Trust Celebrates Over \$1,000,000 in Public Subsidies Recycled and Preserved at Annual Meeting

Northern Communities Land Trust Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Dinner will take place Thursday, March 29th from 5:30 – 7:30pm at Marshall School in Duluth. A complimentary meal catered by the New Scenic Café will be served along with piano music by Jeff Urbaniak. Free childcare and creative activities will be provided for children by the Duluth Children's Museum. All community members are welcome and will be given the opportunity to give the Land Trust Board and staff feedback on the organization's work during the business meeting.

Throughout the evening, the Land Trust will celebrate the financial and environmental sustainability of its organization. 2006 ushered in a record number of resales for the Land Trust, bringing the total number of homes it has resold to 22 and the **total amount of public subsidy it has recycled to over \$1,000,000**. This amount dramatically demonstrates how effectively the program stewards the communities' precious financial resources in the process of creating permanently affordable homes.

In keeping with the meeting's theme of sustainability, Rachel Wagner of Wagner Zaun Architecture will be the featured speaker and will talk about the exciting work she is doing with the nonprofit organization Common Ground, a Limited Liability Company of the Land Trust and its General Contractor, to develop a Sustainability Index. This index will be used by Common Ground to improve and increase the environmental sustainability of the Land Trust's new homes and will also be offered as a tool to other affordable housing developers. In addition, Dean Talbot of Minnesota Power (the funder for the Sustainability Index project) will be present to talk about energy rebates and to hand out complimentary compact florescent light bulbs to all in attendance.

Northern Communities Land Trust is a local nonprofit organization which provides affordable homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income people in Duluth and surrounding communities. Although Land Trust homeowners own their homes and experience the rewards of homeownership, Northern Communities Land Trust leases the land to the homeowners, thus ensuring the homes will remain affordable when sold in the future. To date, the Land Trust has helped 151 households purchase homes, and has developed two affordable rental units.

If you are interested in attending the Land Trust's Annual Meeting, please RSVP by 4pm, Tuesday, March 27th with the number of adults and children to Kathy or Dennis at the Land Trust, 218-727-5372 or Dennis@landtrustduluth.org.