# ENVISION

## COMMUNITY

**Envision a place** where all people have what they need to live their healthiest lives.

Where housing instability is addressed by empowering and elevating potential residents as designers, problemsolvers, and decisionmakers.



ROME DARRING, Envision leader and designer



Housing alone is not enough. Community is essential for belonging and stability.

"The point of community is to stimulate our minds and help us come up. The idea is to learn and grow from everybody."

## Why Envision is Different

#### Intentional Community Grounded in Shared Values

As a response to the devastating impacts of social isolation, Envision is designed as an intentional community grounded in shared values including autonomy, learning from each other, and shared responsibility.

#### Designed by Residents

Envision is designed by individuals experiencing housing instability working side-by-side with those who are stably housed.

#### Self-Governed

Participatory operations empower communities to be self-reliant while decreasing operational costs.

#### A Diverse Community Builds Stability

- 20% of residents are chronically homeless highest utilizers of health care
- 20% of residents have never experienced homelessness
- 60% of residents have experienced housing instability (may not be high health care utilizers)

#### **True Affordability**

We meet this truly affordable price point by reducing the footprint of our homes, sharing facilities, and being innovative with our operations.



# Extremely affordable, desirable homes

Common House

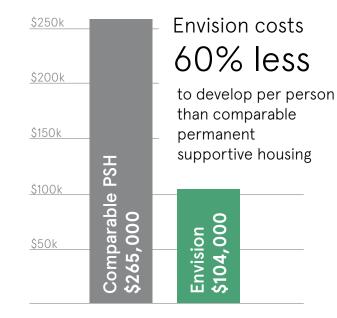
Micro Home

#### **Micro Homes**

Envision's pods are designed to house two individuals. Each person has a private living area and shares a bathroom with one other person. Units are built using Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) which are prefabricated and heavily insulated, making units easy to build and keep warm with minimal heating even in Minnesota's coldest days.

#### Shared Spaces

The units will be assembled around the common house, a building that contains a community kitchen, private bathrooms with private showers, laundry facilities, space for service providers to meet privately with clients, and a large area for the entire community to gather. The common house is essential for the activities of our intentional community.



Total Development Cost (per person)

Envision's operations are sustainable with Housing Support income supplementation and rent collected from residents.

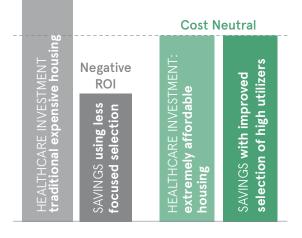
"For people that have disabilities or health issues, without having a place that allows them to grow it is impossible to get better. This is really going to help the homeless. Once they get their health in place it can help them reach the next goal, and the goal after that."



## Envision a future where we can prescribe housing

#### Cost-Effectiveness of Healthcare Investment

Other healthcaresupported housing Envision Community



# Why would the healthcare system get involved in housing?

#### Homelessness destroys health and creates a financial strain on the healthcare system. People

in a homeless situation are five times more likely than non-homeless individuals to be admitted to inpatient hospital units. They also stay in the hospital for up to four days longer at significant cost to the system (D'Amore, Huang, Chiang, & Goldfrank, 2001). Hennepin Healthcare patients with unstable housing at discharge have a higher risk for readmission and returning to the ED within 14 days of discharge, further straining our system (Soderlund et al., 2016). That staggering financial strain can be quantified by looking at the 10 most costly Hennepin Healthcare patients identified in the electronic medical record as homeless. This group of 10 people had over \$2M in healthcare costs during the previous 12 months with over 30 hospitalizations and almost 60 ED visits.

#### Investing in housing improves health and decreases healthcare

spending. People with lived experience and experts agree that housing is important to improve the health in general of homeless individuals (National Academies, 2018). What effect does housing have on costs? A randomized controlled trial showed housing created 30% healthcare savings among the chronically homeless (Basu, Buchanan, & Sadowski, 2012). In the Twin Cities, a PSH program for people experiencing homelessness that was subsidized by a local health plan found healthcare savings of \$550 per participant per month as compared to a control group. An even larger healthcare savings of over \$1,000 per participant per month was observed for participants with higher morbidity levels, which Envision Community intends to select for 20% of its residents (Hearth Connection and Medica, 2017).

ENVISION COMMUNITY

# We propose a two-year live demonstration to explore this new model of community

#### Demonstration Overview

- 2-year live demonstration
- Housing 16-24 people in 8-12 micro homes
- Location in Minneapolis, specific site TBD

#### Demonstration Goals

Compare Envision with traditional permanent supportive housing by capturing data about the health and wellbeing of Envision's residents.

#### Residents as Researchers

Envision has a rigorous outcomes measurement plan involving Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) where residents are active participants in the research.

### Passage of Zoning Change Paves the Way for Envision Community in Minneapolis!

On November 22, 2019, the Minneapolis City Council unanimously approved the zoning code text amendment titled "Intentional Community Cluster Developments" as part of a strategic effort to create innovative housing types and address homelessness in Minneapolis. This zoning change opens the door for the Envision Community Collaborative to build our proposed 2-year demonstration community and shows that this work is part of the City's larger vision for the future.



## How to Get Involved

Help us find **LAND** for the demonstration, connect us with the right **PEOPLE** including potential residents, service providers, and local supporters, and help us find **FUNDING** 

- Street Voices Consultants: \$25,000
- Planning: \$105,000
- Total development cost: \$2.5M
  - Construction materials for one unit (housing two people): \$50,000
  - Common house: \$290,000
- Rigorous outcomes evaluation: \$500,000
- Continuous improvement during the demonstration: \$135,000

#### Join our Growing Collaborative

Street Voices of Change • Freedom From the Streets • Alchemy Architects • Elim Church • First Covenant Church • Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church • Integrated Community Solutions • Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing • Minneapolis Health Department • Minneapolis Public Housing Authority • Minnesota Design Center of the University of Minnesota • North Central University • Project for Pride in Living • Sparrow Properties • St. James Lutheran Church • St. Stephen's Human Services • Tasks Unlimited • and many individuals

#### A Special Thanks to...

Pohlad Family Foundation • Family Housing Fund • LISC • United Healthcare Foundation • Optum Advisory Services • McKinght Foundation • MDC Dayton Hudson Endowment • Footprint Project • Panasonic Eco Solutions • Simpliphi Power • SIP Seal • and many private donors



"I want to feel that burning in my chest that says I can be big and be a part of the bigness."

#### Join the movement!

Contact: envisioncommunitymn@gmail.com

JUNAIL FREEMAN ANDERSON Envision leader and designer

#### References

Basu, A., Kee, R., Buchanan, D., Sadowski, L.S. (2012). Comparative cost analysis of housing and case management program for chronically ill homeless adults compared to usual care. Health Serv Res, 47(1 Pt 2), 523-543.

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National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2018). Permanent Supportive Housing: Evaluating the Evidence for Improving Health Outcomes Among People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

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