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Simpson Housing Services reaches fundraising milestone to rebuild its shelter and develop 42 units of affordable housing

\$11.1 million award from Minnesota Housing Finance Agency brings agency closer to goal

February 03, 2022 – MINNEAPOLIS, MN: Simpson Housing Services is proud to announce that it has reached 70 percent of its \$41 million fundraising goal to build the new Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments with 70 shelter beds, enhanced on-site services, and 42 units of affordable housing on the site of its current emergency shelter. In addition, the campaign will support Simpson’s new administrative and program offices near the Minneapolis farmer’s market.

This milestone is due to the support of a variety of government partners, foundations, and donors – including a \$11.1 million award from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA). This financial commitment puts Simpson well on its way to reaching its goal and breaking ground for the Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments before the end of this year, thereby vastly improving the existing shelter, and adding some much-needed affordable housing to the city’s infrastructure. [Project for Pride in Living](#) is Simpson's development partner for the project.

“As we have more institutional partners stepping in and investing in this development, that builds more and more confidence across our communities,” says Simpson Executive Director Steve Horsfield. “The support of Minneapolis city government, the county, the state, and various private donors is further affirmation that we’re doing this the right way, and it’s the right thing. We also have the right development partners, whose exceptional work is aligned with our mission and values.”

“Dignified, safe, and affordable housing is a human right,” says Minneapolis City Council President Andrea Jenkins. “I am thrilled to see Simpson Housing Services come a step closer to manifesting that reality for hundreds of unhoused residents in the City of Minneapolis. This support from MHFA will help to create 42 units of deeply affordable housing for some of our most vulnerable residents.”

Our mission is to house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness.

Simpson’s new mailing address: 160 Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55405 • simpsonhousing.org



Simpson is also thrilled to announce the final stretch of a \$10 million private fundraising campaign, as part of the larger \$41 million goal. With 50 percent of the goal achieved, the agency has launched a \$1.5 million dollar-for-dollar match provided by three supporters: an anonymous donor, J. Randal & Sharon Cochrane Charitable Fund, and the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.

This is the largest fundraising challenge match in Simpson's 40-year history.

For more information on the build-up campaign and the new building, [click here](#).
To donate to the campaign, [click here](#).

About the new Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments, located in the Whitter neighborhood at 2740 1st Avenue South, Minneapolis:

In 2019, Simpson Housing Services was gifted the Simpson United Methodist Church building and became the official owner of the site where the shelter has operated for four decades. The 125-year-old structure was never built to accommodate shelter guests. The new building will continue the church's legacy and will be a national best practice, low-barrier shelter model designed to meet the short-term housing needs of shelter guests through enriched services, with hopes that guests achieve increased stability and better housing outcomes as a result.

Plans for the five-story facility include two floors of permanent supportive housing (42 efficiency units), two floors of emergency shelter (70 beds), a commercial kitchen capable of serving 100 people, a 24-hour front desk, and offices/clinic space for Health Care for the Homeless, service staff, and community and cultural partners. One of Simpson's core values is celebrating and embracing the uniqueness and dignity of every person. As a mission-driven organization, Simpson evaluates all opportunities in light of its core mission and values. Its recognition that everyone deserves a safe and dignified space is the primary focus of this project.

Timeline

1982: Simpson Housing Services begins as an emergency shelter when Simpson United Methodist Church opens its doors to neighbors sleeping on the steps

2017: The congregation sunsets and graciously plans to bequeath the building to Simpson

2018: A feasibility study is conducted, and the Simpson board of directors approves the plan to build a dignified shelter and continue the congregation's legacy

2019: Simpson becomes the official owner of the building

2020: Simpson announces its Build-Up Campaign and plans for the new building

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2021: City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County both contribute \$3.5 million in federal funds

January 2022: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency contributes \$11.1 million, which represents 75 percent of the expense for the housing portion of the development

Spring 2022: Simpson will open its new administrative and program offices at 160 Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis

The agency plans to fully fund the new Simpson Community Shelter and Apartments, break ground, and commence construction by the end of 2022, or early 2023.

The emergency shelter will continue to operate at a temporary space during construction to ensure there is no interruption of services for shelter guests.

Simpson Housing Services' Campaign Partners

Public partners include Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, Metropolitan Council, and Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

Significant support from private partners includes an anonymous donor, J. Randal & Sharon Cochrane Charitable Fund, Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, the Pohlad Family Foundation, and the Luther Automotive Foundation.

About Simpson Housing Services

Simpson Housing Services' mission is to house, support, and advocate for people experiencing homelessness. February 2022 marks Simpson's 40th anniversary. Learn more at simpsonhousing.org.

The nonprofit serves about 2,000 people annually. Its programs include an emergency shelter; supportive housing for single adults, families, and youth; and extensive services including early childhood services, mentoring, tutoring, and education opportunities to promote strong communities and self-advocacy.

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