



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
of St. Paul and Minneapolis

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MAY 26, 2017

## Statement from Catholic Charities Regarding Passage of State Bonding Bill

*Pending Governor Dayton's Signature,  
Critical State Investments Mark Significant Milestone in Completing Dorothy Day Place*

**Contact:**

Therese Gales, Catholic Charities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis  
[therese.gales@cctwincities.org](mailto:therese.gales@cctwincities.org) ; 612-221-5161

**Saint Paul, Minn. (May 26, 2017)**— The Minnesota legislature has passed a bonding bill as a part of the 2017 special legislative session. The bill, which we are hopeful Governor Mark Dayton will soon sign, includes two critical state investments necessary to complete Dorothy Day Place and to address critical housing needs throughout Minnesota:

- **\$12 million in General Obligation (GO) bonds to fund the Saint Paul Opportunity Center**, the second and final phase of Dorothy Day Place
- **\$55 million in Housing Infrastructure Bonds (HIB) to Minnesota Housing for affordable housing statewide**; Catholic Charities will submit an application to Minnesota Housing for a portion of the Housing Infrastructure Bonds to support approximately 170 units of permanent housing on the upper floors of the Saint Paul Opportunity Center.

Dorothy Day Place, a two-building, \$100 million public-private partnership, is the largest public-private partnership in housing and social services in Minnesota history. The critical state investment announced today follows on the heels of the completion of the Capital Campaign to raise \$40 million in private funds to support Dorothy Day Place. The private Capital Campaign was chaired by Doug Baker, Chairman and CEO of Ecolab; Mary Brainerd, President and CEO of HealthPartners; and Andy Cecere, President and CEO of U.S. Bank. Ramsey County and the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority have also committed to critical funding.

**Tim Marx, President and CEO of Catholic Charities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis:**

*"We are grateful to the legislature and Governor Dayton for committing to a bonding bill during this Special Session, and to the legislature for passing the bill with funding to complete Dorothy Day Place and to support critical housing needs statewide. We are hopeful Governor Dayton will sign the bill, which will mark a major milestone for this historic public-private partnership and will allow us to continue our work to complete the Saint Paul Opportunity Center and Dorothy Day Residence.*

*Dorothy Day Place represents the best in our community and shows what can happen when Minnesotans from all sectors and political backgrounds come together around a shared goal. Together, we are achieving the true promise of this bold and transformational vision to prevent and end homelessness and to contribute to the vitality of the region."*

*(continued)*

**About Dorothy Day Place:**

Dorothy Day Place is a \$100 million vision for the Dorothy Day Center in Saint Paul. The new vision is based on an innovative and proven model in Minneapolis which is also run by Catholic Charities.

- **Phase 1 – Higher Ground Saint Paul:** The first phase of the new vision—Higher Ground Saint Paul—opened in January 2017 and offers 473 people experiencing homelessness permanent homes, dignified shelter, and a pathway out of poverty.
- **Phase 2 – Saint Paul Opportunity Center and Dorothy Day Residence:** The second phase consists of a six-floor, 50,000-square-foot building to be built on the site of the current Dorothy Day Center. The building will include (1) **the Saint Paul Opportunity Center**, an integrated, one-stop location connecting people to critical services to improve their health, income, housing stability, and well-being. Services will be provided by a variety of community partner organizations, including Catholic Charities, Ramsey County, the Veterans Administration, and health care providers. The building will also include the (2) **Dorothy Day Residence**, approximately 170 permanent housing units above the Opportunity Center. Catholic Charities hopes to complete construction on the Saint Paul Opportunity Center in 2019.

The project is the largest public-private partnership in state history in housing and social services, securing broad support and funding from both public and private sources. For more information, including how to get involved, visit [www.dorothydaycampaign.org](http://www.dorothydaycampaign.org).

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**About Catholic Charities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis**

Catholic Charities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis serves those most in need. We are a leader at solving poverty, creating opportunity, and advocating for justice in the community. Our programs for children, families and adults annually help nearly 30,000 people, regardless of faith, background or circumstance. Through our advocacy efforts, Catholic Charities serves as a tireless voice for those who often go unheard. Our work would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers and donors. More at [www.cctwincities.org](http://www.cctwincities.org).