

NEWS RELEASE

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Residents of Moorhead manufactured home park form cooperative

Moorhead, MN—On Monday, Oct. 22, the residents of the Greenwood Mobile Home Park quit paying rent. They won't be evicted, however. Instead, they became the official owners of the manufactured home park many have lived in for years.

With development assistance from Northcountry Cooperative Foundation, Minneapolis, the residents of this Moorhead manufactured home park have been busy conducting environmental studies, finding financing and completed the real estate transaction. The result is the Bennett Park Cooperative, collectively owned and controlled by those who live there. They are the third manufactured home park cooperative in the state of Minnesota.



“We want to make this a safe, affordable community for the people living here,” says Brandon Failing, President of Bennett Park Cooperative. “The purchase has been a long time coming.”

The resident/owners of Bennett Park Cooperative have been diligent in their quest to own the park they can now truly call “home.” They have worked for more than two years to finalize the cooperative purchase.

“Negotiations over the past month with the owner aided in the cooperative purchasing the property,” says Stephanie Miller, an employee of the Northcountry Cooperative Foundation’s co-op housing team. She says Bennett Park Cooperative plans to employ professional property management, perform a variety of capital improvements to the property and robustly celebrate the purchase.

Northcountry Cooperative Foundation is a nonprofit affiliate of Northcountry Cooperative Development Fund, a community development financial institution with offices in Minneapolis and Mandan, N.D. Northcountry Cooperative Development Fund has more than 25 years of experience in helping people of modest means improve their lives through collaborative action.

“Since its founding in 1978 as one of the first community development loan funds in the country, NCDF has loaned millions of dollars to a range of small consumer, worker, housing and producer cooperatives,” says Margaret Lund, NCDF’s executive director. “We’re excited about having had a lead role in helping the residents of this Moorhead manufactured home park take ownership and control over their lives.”

For more information on the Bennett Park Cooperative, contact Warren Kramer at 612-767-2116.