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Twin Cities Habitat Joins National Pope Leo Village Affordable Housing Movement

St. Paul, MN (June 15, 2026) – Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is the latest Habitat affiliate to join as a partner within the Pope Leo Village movement: An interfaith, multi-city affordable housing initiative inspired by Pope Leo XIV, the first U.S.-born pope, and his commitment to service and social justice. The campaign is designed to activate youth, and all people of faith, to come together to build homes and a more connected community.

“Twin Cities Habitat is excited to join the national Faith in Action movement known as Pope Leo Village, which unites people of all backgrounds to build homes, community, and hope,” said Chris Coleman, President & CEO of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. “At its heart, this program offers a pathway for people to come together in service and social justice action—especially young people and faith communities of all backgrounds.”

The Pope Leo Village program was conceptualized and is sponsored by an anonymous donor who provides meaningful initial capital, a unifying vision, and a comprehensive approach. The donor also collaborates with each Habitat for Humanity affiliate to customize and implement the project at the local level including site selection, volunteer coordination, fundraising, and building homes in their community. Other Pope Leo Village projects located across the U.S. include Chicago (the Pope’s hometown and first Pope Leo Village site), Cleveland, Cincinnati, Detroit, Greater Des Moines, Tampa Bay-Hillsborough, Milwaukee, Nashville, Omaha, Orange County, Philadelphia, Portland, San Antonio, St. Louis, Greater Raleigh, and Wichita. Collectively, affiliates plan to build more than 235 affordable homes across the U.S. as part of the Pope Leo Village movement.

Twin Cities Program to Launch July 8

The Pope Leo Village campaign in the Twin Cities will launch with a kickoff event on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. Confirmed speakers include Chris Coleman, President & CEO of Twin Cities Habitat; Dr. Marcheta Evans, President of St. Catherine’s University; St. Catherine University students Leslie Varela and Samantha Schroeder; and Habitat homeowner Michelle. Media are invited to attend the speaking program, which is otherwise limited to stakeholders and invited guests. Following program remarks, 15 volunteers from St. Catherine University’s Summer Scholars Program will begin the first build of Twin Cities Habitat’s Pope Leo Village campaign.

“Social justice and Community are two of St. Kate’s core values, which are reflected in our commitment to illuminating disparities and researching racial justice in housing in Ramsey County,” said Dr. Marcheta Evans, President of St. Catherine University. “The opportunity to partner with Twin Cities Habitat as part of Pope Leo Village is all the more meaningful for our



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students and faculty who have participated in this research, because they can take that knowledge and turn it into action by building a welcoming community for all our neighbors. This is a true full-circle moment for them in their leadership journeys, and is why we are excited to be part of this event!”

The Pope Leo Village campaign will be anchored by five affordable new houses: One single-family and two twin homes located on Winthrop St N and Howard St N. The homes are located at The Heights: Twin Cities Habitat’s largest project, which includes building nearly 150 affordable homes on the Greater East Side of St. Paul. Homes at The Heights are designed to be affordable. Eligibility depends on the household size of the homebuyer but is generally set to be affordable to those earning \$60,000 to \$131,500. Homebuyers can also access Twin Cities Habitat’s affordable mortgage products, down payment assistance, financial coaching, and ongoing support.

More Opportunities to Participate in Pope Leo Village

Fifteen designated volunteer build days will take place from July to September 2026 as part of Twin Cities Habitat’s multi-year effort through 2028. Twin Cities Habitat will organize volunteer days and group participation; serve as the point of contact for donors, schools, and faith partners; and steward funds raised for the build.

Partnerships to date include St. Catherine University and Tres Iglesias, an association of three neighborhood churches including St. Frances Cabrini, St. Cecilia, and Prospect Park United Methodist. Additional partners—such as high schools, higher education institutions, faith groups, and alumni associations—will be announced. Twin Cities Habitat welcomes interested organizations to contact us and learn more.

Volunteers, donors, and faith communities can also participate in Habitat opportunities across the metro including other build sites, ReStore, fundraising, and community engagement as part of the Pope Leo Village movement. People can visit www.tchabitat.org/plv to learn more about Pope Leo Village, engagement at The Heights, and how to get involved.

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About Pope Leo Village

Pope Leo Village is a national interfaith movement that mobilizes youth and faith communities to build affordable homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity local affiliates. The program is inspired by Pope Leo XIV’s call to justice, service, and human dignity. Pope Leo Village combines the construction or rehabilitation of affordable homes with a volunteer and youth engagement campaign that brings faith communities, schools, and neighbors together in hands-on service.

About The Heights

In the Twin Cities, Pope Leo Village will take place at The Heights: The largest development in the history of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, and a true public-private partnership to deliver long-term community, economic, and environmental benefits. The Heights is transforming a former golf course on the Greater East Side of St. Paul into a vibrant, mixed-use community



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that will include approximately 1,000 housing units. Of these, 147 affordable homes will be built by Twin Cities Habitat and sold to homebuyers, including a mix of single-family homes, Twin Homes, and townhomes. The development will also feature nearly one million square feet of light industrial space to support quality job creation, along with an extensive network of parks, trails, and restored wetlands to provide access to greenspace. The Heights is also designed to be one of the most sustainable developments in the nation. The all-electric community will incorporate solar shingles, air-source heat pumps, and advanced energy-efficiency standards. The project has achieved LEED Platinum for Communities certification—the highest possible rating—and is one of only two developments in the United States to receive this distinction.

<https://theheightssaintpaul.com/>

About Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Founded in 1985, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate and innovation leader within the global Habitat for Humanity network. Twin Cities Habitat brings together a broad coalition of supporters, volunteers, and community partners to create, preserve, and promote affordable homeownership across the seven-county Minneapolis–Saint Paul metro area—mobilizing approximately 10,000 volunteers each year. As the region’s largest affordable homeownership builder, Twin Cities Habitat has partnered with 2,100 families to unlock the power of homeownership. Its nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), TCHFH Lending, Inc., provides affordable mortgage products, down payment assistance, and personalized supports—making homeownership attainable in an increasingly out-of-reach market. For the past decade, Twin Cities Habitat’s foreclosure rate has remained below 1%. Thousands of households have strengthened their housing stability, financial well-being, and quality of life through Twin Cities Habitat. www.tchabitat.org.