

HOME Line's Quarterly Highlights: October - December 2011

Tenant Hotline

The Tenant Hotline again took over 11,000 for the year. This is the third straight year that HOME Line has taken this high volume of calls.

In 2011, the tenant hotline prevented an estimated 853 evictions, saved tenants \$2,213,699 in returned security deposits and rent abatements, and helped 913 families whose landlords were in foreclosure.

Organizing

- A 121 unit HUD-foreclosed subsidized property was tentatively sold to a local nonprofit, AEON, to preserve the affordability and protect the tenants. Organizers and residents of View Point at Shingle Creek organized over the past year to engage elected officials and HUD in order to reach this outcome.
- Organizers are currently monitoring at-risk subsidized housing projects for preservation purposes in the following communities: Minneapolis, Coon Rapids, Maple Grove, Marshall, St. Paul, Granite Falls, Brooklyn Center, Miltona, Benson, Worthington, and Albert Lea. In total, this affects 757 HUD Section 8 units and 170 USDA Rural Development units.

Policy Advocacy

- HOME Line is currently researching state legislation that would require a landlord to disclose to prospective renters if its rental license has ever been revoked or suspended, amongst other fairly serious tenant-landlord law and ordinance violations.
- Policy interns contributed several posts and podcasts advocating landlord disclosure laws, better affordable housing policies, and discussing the impacts of property tax increases on renters.
- HOME Line's Public Policy Blog, <http://homelinemn.org/blog/>, provides state and federal policy updates to housing advocates and other interested parties. The blog also includes common sense language to describe (often confusing) housing law and programs. In the final quarter of 2011, there were 6,070 page-views of the blog.