



**For Immediate Release:**

## **Beacon to Break Ground on Great River Landing May 3**

*Housing supporting those who have experienced homelessness, unemployment and incarceration to be first-of-its-kind in Minnesota*

MINNEAPOLIS, MN, April 24, 2018 – Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and Better Futures Minnesota will be celebrating the groundbreaking of Great River Landing on Thursday, May 3 from 5:30 – 7 p.m. Located at 813 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Minneapolis' North Loop, the apartment homes for 72 people at Great River Landing will be an innovative supportive employment and housing community, transforming the lives of those impacted by homelessness, unemployment, and incarceration. A program featuring local dignitaries such as Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and City Council member Jeremiah Ellison will begin at 6 p.m.

Developed by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, Great River Landing will provide supportive housing for people who have been incarcerated. Better Futures Minnesota will be onsite, providing employment services, coaching, and other invaluable supports through their acclaimed model, which offers an alternative and highly-successful approach that benefits both the individual and the community. This powerful combination will position tenants without job or rental histories – factors which currently prohibit them from finding a stable home – for long-term success. “Great River Landing is a visionary endeavor coming at a time when we are grappling with the interconnected issues of homelessness and a criminal justice system that disproportionately impacts people of color, and particularly African American men,” says Beacon’s Executive Director Lee Blons. “And it will set a new standard for how a community can unlock doors for people who have too often been locked out of systems of stability where they can thrive.”

“As we break ground at Great River Landing, we break ground on a new chapter of hope and possibility, not only for the people who will call it home, but for all of us,” said Timothy Hart-Andersen, Senior Pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Westminster and Plymouth Congregational Churches, collaborating congregations within Beacon, provided significant leadership in bringing Great River Landing to life. Paula Northwood, Acting Senior Minister at Plymouth, adds: “Providing a home, support services, and employment to over 70 people at a time, we’re affirming that our community has the resources *and* the desire to break the cycles of poverty and incarceration. And we want to see more phenomenal homes like Great River Landing!”

Great River Landing will feature support services by Better Futures Minnesota, an experienced service provider specializing in helping men find work, establish rental history and reconnect with their families. Thomas Adams, CEO of Better Futures Minnesota, has seen the change that can come through supportive housing. “Creating success stories isn’t just about a getting a job or getting a place,” he says. “It’s about having a support system in place that can help people start rebuilding their lives on their own and Great River Landing will make that possible.”

Great River Landing is scheduled to open in 2019.

**Capital Funding provided by:**

City of Minneapolis  
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency  
National Equity Fund  
Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority  
Metropolitan Council  
Bremer Bank  
Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

**Rental Assistance provided by:**

Hennepin County  
Minneapolis Public Housing Authority

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**About Beacon** | Beacon’s vision is that all people have a home. We are a collaborative of congregations united in action to create homes and advance equitable housing. By leveraging our collective power, we develop affordable homes, shelter families, and work to impact housing policy. Our focus is on families, seniors, young adults and others who are very low income, and those who are experiencing homelessness. | [www.beaconinterfaith.org](http://www.beaconinterfaith.org)

**About Better Futures Minnesota** | Better Futures Minnesota’s purpose is to fuel and guide our men’s desire to turn their lives around and walk a new path toward better health and success. We are also intent on changing the costly systems and practices that produce poor results and perpetuate the chaos and cycles of dependency experienced by men who have faced incarceration. | [www.betterfuturesminnesota.com](http://www.betterfuturesminnesota.com)

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