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# mission



# EXTRA

## Introducing the LCMS National Housing Support Corporation

*“Is your congregation interested in neighborhood revitalization?”*

That question, front and center on the Synod’s [website](#), prompted a click that led to a recent article in the LCMS *Reporter* featuring the National Housing Support Corporation. The NHSC is committed to helping Lutherans get involved in housing construction and rehabilitation, community gardening, resident leadership development and community outreach. Here’s an excerpt from that article:

“Founded to provide consulting services and access to financial resources to Lutherans nationwide who are seeking to better their communities, NHSC (doing business as Lutheran Housing Support) also builds homes as a hands-on community-development organization in St. Louis.

Its first completed “Nazareth Home” in the impoverished College Hill neighborhood was celebrated Aug. 23 in a ribbon-cutting ceremony that involved a number of St. Louis dignitaries, including Mayor

Francis G. Slay. [Click here](#) for more information.

CEO Nicole Ridley says NHSC can help congregations and other Lutheran groups with an interest in community development determine “what their role might be” in that work. The key, Ridley says, is assessing the needs of the community...

“Our role is to help them get out and connected with the neighborhood and the residents — and those agencies that are already serving those communities

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“And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.” **Acts 5.42**



— to get a sense of what really are the unmet needs,” she said.

If other groups and agencies are already involved in addressing local housing needs, congregations often can work with them as partners “to strengthen their efforts.” If not, Ridley says NHSC staff can help the Lutheran congregation or group determine “what their role might be, and how we can build their capacity to make that happen.”

Housing ministry, like other “mercy ministries,” can “absolutely” help bring people to Christ, she said: “We’re called as Christians to love our neighbors, and this is a real hands-on way that we can do so, in a very tangible way, that has visible and spiritual results.”

Every year NHSC provides support to more than 30 organizations through its grants, consulting services and training programs.

Information about grants, including online applications, is available under the [new NHSC] website’s “Services” and “Resources” tabs.

Also available is information about loans, NHSC’s “Customized Consulting Services,” the College Hill

project in St. Louis and past projects.

The website includes a fundraising “primer,” a document library, and more than a dozen links to outside resources for community development and fundraising, such as the Community Development Society, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, NeighborWorks America and the National Housing Institute.

Soon to come is an online “toolkit” of resources to guide congregations, districts and social ministries “through what they need to know in terms of getting a housing project together,” said Ridley. A webinar on fundraising is planned for this fall.

The website also offers information on contributing to — and volunteering with — NHSC, as well as a photo gallery, a calendar of events and news stories.”

Read the entire article [here](#).  
Visit their website:  
[nationalhousingsupport.org](http://nationalhousingsupport.org).

Now that you know more about the NHSC and their mission, what are your thoughts? Keep them and their work in your prayers this month.

## + MISSION +

The **LCMS NHSC**’s vision is for restored and revitalized neighborhoods that are anchored by LCMS congregations actively engaged in collaborative mercy. To bring that vision into reality, our mission is to provide access to capital and customized consulting services for underserved neighborhoods in order to transform them into thriving communities. Our work is defined by four core operating values:

**Christ-centered:** our work is Grace filled and a grateful response to the love of God in Christ Jesus.

**Commitment:** we are committed to the personal, spiritual and professional growth of our employees and to the well-being of the congregations and neighborhoods we serve.

**Collaborative:** we seek to work with other like-minded individuals, congregations and organizations to accomplish our mission.

**Mercy:** the mercy that we show others is a reflection of God’s mercy to us.

# Zion Lutheran Church, LCMS

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