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I Joined the Team

**Written by Mike Meis
A Homeowner's Father**

At Two Rivers CLT we found an organization that was dedicated to cutting the red tape for the first time homebuyer, and who were especially dedicated and skilled at putting qualified families into nice, affordable homes.



I was so impressed by Two Rivers Team that I subsequently volunteered my efforts to the team, and am now proud to be a member of the Development Committee. I am looking forward to working and contributing toward the success of the next project.

As a long time homeowner, I have been through the traditional home buying process a number of times, buying and selling homes on the open real estate market. I am well aware of the exhilaration at the thought of buying a new home can quickly fade as the traditional real estate process starts and then quickly engulfs the homeowner. For an inexperienced homebuyer, the process can seem completely overwhelming.

My son was recently in that position. He is a single father and decided he wanted to move out of his 1 bedroom apartment and buy a house. He wanted to make a real home for his infant son. He wanted a nice house, with a yard where his son could play, and maybe have a puppy. When he asked me for help, I knew the challenges he would face. Median housing prices were at an all time high and for a first time homebuyer with a limited income, finding a house he could afford seemed like an impossible take. We knew we needed help.

During our search for resources, we heard about land trusts. We learned that Two Rivers Community Land Trust was located right in our own community, in Washington County. Upon our initial contact we were provided with helpful background information, and an invitation to the next orientation class. It was during that orientation that we discovered that there was an alternative to struggling through the home buying process alone.

My son applied to Two Rivers Community Land Trust for homebuyer assistance, and immediately found he had a team working with him to carefully explain each step along the way, how to complete each requirement and move on to the next. The Two Rivers CLT team provided him with the resources he needed to qualify and be successful in achieving his goal of home ownership. The Two Rivers staff located an ideal home, and updated deficiencies with rehabilitation funds. During the entire process, my son and I felt we were a part of the same team. My son is now a proud homeowner, living in Stillwater.