

<< MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO >>
<< THE STRONG SECURE SINGLE MEN'S HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE >>
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We do not expect perfect people here. If you are applying for membership in this housing co-operative, *we expect* you have had difficulties getting a decent place to live, so tell us what your difficulties are in 3-4 sentences, so we can work with you as much as possible. We can't help you if we don't know what "it" is. *Thank you.*

We believe it is "culturally unfashionable" to be a man these days. The Bishop in particular takes a jaundiced view of the "Me Too" sorts, since she has been dealing since teenage with the stuff the "Me Too" sorts are only now making noise about as if they were the first or had just discovered bias.

She has fought for men's rights successfully since childhood. She and the men of the co-operative Board want to help you be the man you need yourself to be. O'kichiyapi is Lakota for, "they help each other". Thank you for helping us help you!

The cost of the background check is \$15.00. If you don't pass it, the co-operative will keep the \$15.00. If you pass it but decide not to buy a membership, the co-operative will keep the \$15.00.

If you pass it and buy a membership within 60 days of being notified you passed, the \$15.00 will apply to your membership purchase. **The cost of a membership in this housing co-operative is 2 times what we expect a monthly maintenance share payment to be.**

It costs money to keep the co-operative going - electricity, heat, water, sewer, trash, insurance, property taxes, general maintenance, and so on - so every member pays an equal share each month, except for the 3 Custodial fathers, who pay 2 monthly maintenance shares. **Right now, we expect the monthly maintenance share to be \$300.00 for a single man; \$600 for a Custodial father; which means your membership purchase price is \$600 for a single man and \$1,200 for a Custodial father.** If we find the monthly maintenance amount is different, you will be notified in writing and the members will vote on how to handle it, whether more or less, at a meeting to be held within 30 days.

Monthly maintenance share payments are just that; **they are NOT RENT.**

In addition, every member (and resident children) will do some part of the physical maintenance of the property. This is your home. There are no servants here. This is better-life-building activity.

This housing co-operative will take the closest look at applicants who have a history of:

Violence, including charged but not taken to court or convicted, because such cases are often kept out of court (domestic cases). **How many years since last time?** (_____)

Brawlers – people who pick physical fights are violent people. **How many years since last time?** (_____)

Vandals. **How many years since last time** (_____) Specifics _____

Terrorizers. **How many years since last time?** (_____) Regarding terrorizing - please provide details of the terrorizing you were accused of. 3-4 sentences is fine. Use the back of this sheet or another one. Fancy doesn't count; accurate details do.

Regardless, you should apply and tell us your side, and we will proceed from there. We cannot help you fix a problem if we don't know your side of the discussion!

Drug Users (including marijuana, regardless of "reason"; any and all prescription pain killers; *etc.*, non-food mushrooms, tranquilizers; or any psychoactive materials. If it changes a person's view or behavior, **don't bring it to this co-operative.**) No discussion. No exceptions. **"No" means no/none/zero. Forever.** If you have quit but have charges from your past, *again.. tell us.* How long since? We don't believe in "trying" over and over. If you say you quit, it means you quit. Period. Not "until next time". Some of us have licked various addictions; if we can, you can. We can help if you let us. We cannot live your life for you and we won't try to, but we can help you live yours better. No excuses.

Petty thieves (shoplifters, burglars, etc. If you were convicted of embezzlement, tell us – the amounts embezzled are usually large. You might be accepted; we just wouldn't let you near organization money.)

Alcoholics* (you claim you "can't" survive without it*) *There are 2 kinds of alcoholics. Those who are physically addicted, and those who are psychologically addicted.
WE HAVE THINGS THAT WILL HELP YOU BEAT THIS. WE HAVE HAD MUCH SUCCESS WITH OUR PROGRAMS AND METHODS, WHICH ARE UNIQUELY OURS.

Physically addicted people have a harder time getting un-addicted than psychologically-addicted people do. But there is hope – we of the Church of the Helping Hand, Inc. have programs and materials that can safely help you (both) to be successful in this matter, and a long history of success with them. *What do you have to lose other than the misery you've had?*

If you seriously want to own your life in a good way but have a drinking problem, tell us you want to discuss overcoming it - in order to overcome it. We will meet with you and discuss your situation. The objective of the Strong Secure Single Men's Housing Co-operative is to help you own your life in a good way, free of the artificial crutches and things that have brought chaos into your life until now.

If you think we missed something in this application form, tell us. Thank you.
<< Being in a Housing Co-operative Means You Own Not Rent >>

The Strong Secure Single Men's Housing Co-operative cannot accept welfare or VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) to pay members monthly maintenance shares. The VA has told us VASH is only for rent. We're trying to find a way to work with the VA on this. Suggestions are always welcome!

Regardless, housing co-operative monthly maintenance shares ARE NOT RENT. In a housing co-operative, you own a piece of the co-operative and can get tax deductions. You cannot do this with rent. Monthly maintenance share payments are more like mortgage payments - except no one can take what you own away from you, even for indebtedness or child support, because *this* housing co-operative is not for profit. You won't get income from it so there is nothing to take from you. And, you are 1/16 of "the landlord", so not likely to be discriminated against. Here, you have a voice AND a vote.

We cannot accept welfare either. Welfare has told us they will take over and run the co-operative. No. Note: **Food stamps, Medicare, Medicaid are not welfare. Rent Help may not be welfare;** mainly because it only lasts one year. Such cases will need review, of course.

In a housing co-operative, so long as you pay your monthly maintenance share and stick to the contract you (all) sign when you join, you have a safe secure place to live for the rest of your life, if you want it.

There is no lease; you and the other members are your landlord. That is what membership means. You have a voice and a vote in how things are done in a co-operative; and in ours, the majority rules.

Being in a co-operative means everyone pitches in to maintain the place. There will be sign-up sheets. Floors need mopping, rugs need vacuuming; windows need washing; trash needs to get to the curb **on time every week**; bathrooms including showers and toilets have to be **cleaned every day**; etc. When you buy a membership in this housing co-operative, you agree in writing to help keep it decent. Remember, when you clean physically, you clean spiritually. Trade-offs are likely as people's needs change - this IS NOT like any place else you have stayed before. You own something here. You are 1/16 of "the landlord",. You take pride in your things - this is part of that. Way cool! (In Lakota - Wah KHEE lee! - Awesome!)

<< >> PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY - THANK YOU << >>

NAME: _____ Date: _____ 202__

CURRENT ADDRESS: _____ << ATTACH AT
LEAST 1 CLEAR
FULL-FACE COLOR
PHOTO OF
YOURSELF TO
THIS
SOMEWHERE >>

How do you make your living now? _____

What kind(s) of work do you do? _____

Do you like the kind(s) of work you do? (YES) (No)

Why / Why not? _____

What kind of work would you like to do if you could do it, to make your living?

Do you work full time, part time, on call, day labor / temporary, 1099 (private contractor)? Circle one or more as applies

IF YOU ARE NOT EMPLOYED AND DO NOT GET WELFARE, HOW WILL YOU PAY YOUR MONTHLY SHARE PAYMENT IN THIS HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE? (For example, if you get a pension or disability payments, these are not welfare. Neither is food stamps, Medicare, Medicaid.)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AT YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS:

If you are covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) for a physical handicap, do you require 24-hour assistance? If you do, we cannot accept you into our membership. The rooms available to individual members that come with a membership are too small to accommodate 2 people and assistance equipment. Can you shower and things like that, by yourself? If you cannot, what help do you require?

Are you a custodial father? _____ If so, what percent custodial are you?

How many children are you the custodial father of? _____ What are the ages and genders of each child? Are any of them "special needs" children? _____ If one or more is, what is the nature of it?

Does any child need special help with anything? _____ If so, what is the nature of it?

There are 3 custodial father spaces in this Housing Co-operative. They will remain custodial father spaces and are not available for any other use. The maximum number of children per custodial father we can accept is 3 and they have to be minors. If there is a problem, let us know beforehand so we can work with you on this.

What really annoys you in your work?

What really irritates you when you interact with people around you?

What skills would you like to learn? They can be living skills or work skills or both.

Do you have skills you could teach? (Yes) (No) Would you like to teach them? (Yes) (No)

If you have been behind the iron door, (1) was it jail, or prison? Circle your answer
(2) More than once? If more than once, how many times?

(3) What for?

(4) How long were you in?

(5) Were you disciplined for infractions there?

(5a) if you were, what were the infractions?

(5b) if you were, how were you disciplined?

(5c) how many times?

Do you have arthritis?

Heart condition?

Learning problems?

Some other? If so, list it / them:

Anything contagious and long term?

Claustrophobia (get panicky in small spaces)?

Nightmares?

Flashbacks to some bad incident?

Details can help us help you

Problem with heights?

Vision problem?

Hearing problem?

Afraid of dogs, no matter what size?

Allergies?

Asthma?

Do you have any hobbies? (Yes) (No) If you do, please list them.

Would you like to teach them? (Yes) (No)

If not, do you want to learn any?

If you do, please list them.

Do you have any skills or talents including hobbies that you are willing to teach?

If you do, what are they?

Do you own a vehicle?

If you do, is it: (a) licensed

(b) insured

(c) in good repair

If it needs work, what work does it need?

If you are not accepted right now, would you like to be part of an auxiliary where you can come to meetings and spend time with the members? Inquiring minds want to know (Yes) (No)

Reminder: Every place needs maintenance such as cleaning, snow removal, painting. As a member of this co-operative, you have an obligation to some of this. Every member can do something(s), and will.

Watching old TV shows / playing games does not foster growth.

Some people really enjoy some kinds of work; other people will 'hate' that same kind of work. The objective is to get the job done with the least amount of griping. You know – adult-like..

As a result, there will be sign-up sheets for several things. Maintenance work of various kinds; showers; laundry; bathrooms and showers need to be cleaned every day, etc.

When you sign this, you state that you understand and agree with all of it. You promise to be alcohol- and drug-free (ALL the time; not just when on the premises) and to pitch in with keeping this co-operative functioning in a good way. Remember, it is an old truth that if your word is worthless, you are worth less.

Print your Name and also write your name. Thank you.

Date: _____

<< **If you have any questions or think there is anything in your background that we should discuss with you, tell us, please. We can't help fix a problem if we don't know there is one.** >>

**** You can print a color photo of yourself for 50 cents at the Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library. Ask at the reference desk; they will help you. Or take a selfie and attach it to this application from your phone.

Thank you for your interest in this visionary approach to ending landlord discrimination that leads to homelessness among men and/or going back behind the iron door! **Homeless men asked** Carel Two-Eagle to find a better way in March 2020. This is the result as of August 1, 2022. The founding Board are her and 5 strong secure men from Bismarck. We don't claim to be perfect or to have all the answers, but we are sure that this housing co-operative is the first effort anywhere to deal with this problem in this way. ***If you think we missed something, please tell us.*** Spelling and beautiful handwriting don't count – ideas and communication do. No one can fix a problem if they don't know one exists.

We of the Strong Secure Single Men's Housing Co-operative don't just survive – We Thriiive! That includes you. **We help each other is O'kichiyapi** (OH! Kee chee yah pee) in Lakota. It also means co-operation; working together to accomplish something. **Thrive is wichichagah** (wee CHEE chah ghah) – they all grow/thrive/prosper. Thrive, here, is weeCHEEchaghAh – They all grow, thrive prosper or a person betters oneself, gets along well in life.

AWESOME! in Lakota is Wakhili! (Wah KHEE lee). You are wakhili! This co-operative is wakhili.

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YouTube: Strong Secure Single Mens Housing Cooperative

Website: WWW.SingleMensHousingCooperative.com

