



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

North Star Neighbors -- Bemidji

\$150,000 capacity support to establish a sustainable acquisition and rehabilitation system and aging homeowner transition model in rural Minnesota

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<https://northstarneighbors.org/>

North Star Neighbors – building a new model of affordable housing

In northwest Minnesota, rising prices often put homeownership out of reach for working families. That changed for Jennifer Compeau when she discovered North Star Neighbors and its community land trust model, which lowers purchase prices by separating the ownership of the home from the land beneath it. In January 2026, Jennifer officially became a homeowner as she purchased a three-bedroom home in East Grand Forks, providing both room to grow and a secure place for her children to play outdoors.

"It really builds confidence in yourself as a person, a family, and a mother," she said. "When you have a home, stability, and the opportunity to thrive, you can think about giving back."

Since gaining housing security, Jennifer is now actively pursuing opportunities for local leadership and civic engagement, proving that affordable housing doesn't just provide families with a place to live, it strengthens the entire community.

Photo – download links available in media kit



Jennifer_Compeau_NSN_ESG