

Senator Bernie Sanders Recognized by National Housing Group

Jessica Grant, National CLT Network
Chris Donnelly, Champlain Housing Trust,
September 11, 2012

US Senator Bernie Sanders was honored with the Swann Matthei Award by the National Community Land Trust Network at their annual conference in Burlington this past week. According to Chris Donnelly of the Champlain Housing Trust, the Swann Matthei Award “recognizes the outstanding contribution of an individual or organization in promoting the use of the community land trust in building and sustaining a community.”

The National Community Land Trust Network links over 100 member organizations that work to promote permanently affordable homes and land. They strive to support “community health, cohesion, and diversity...by enhancing quality of life through affordable housing, community-building, education, access to land, and advocacy on behalf of people of lower incomes, people of color, and others marginalized in society.”

After accepting the Swann-Matthei Award, Sanders said, “I am extremely honored to have been chosen to receive this award. Creating the first municipally-funded community land trust in the nation is one of my proudest accomplishments as Mayor of Burlington; a decision that has led to the creation of more than 1,500 perpetually affordable apartments and 500 permanently affordable homes in northwestern Vermont. The land trust model works, and must be part of the solution to the national housing crisis. There is no question in my mind that we must fundamentally change our national priorities and address the enormous social needs facing low and moderate income people. At the top of that list is the need for safe, decent and affordable housing for all Americans.”

###