



**NEWS RELEASE**

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June 9, 2022

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**Central Ohio Community Land Trust (COCLT) Welcomes 50th Homeowner**  
Community land trust reaches milestone 50th home and sets sights on the next 50

**(COLUMBUS) June 9, 2022**—The Central Ohio Community Land Trust (COCLT), a subsidiary of COCIC: The Franklin County Land Bank, today announced the completion of its 50th home. The Land Trust was formed in 2018 in partnership with the City of Columbus and the Franklin County Commissioners with the purpose to create permanently affordable housing options throughout Franklin County.

“It’s always a little emotional for our team during a closing,” said Curtiss L. Williams, Sr., President/CEO of COCIC. “During the past decade, homeownership has become less attainable to people, including more full-time working individuals. There is a crisis of moderately affordable homes in Franklin County, so we’re working as quickly as we can to create new inventory of permanently affordable homes.”

COCIC, through the COCLT, is creating a unique and meaningful solution to the housing issues facing our county and much of the country. By taking ownership of and rebuilding upon previously abandoned, foreclosed and blighted properties, COCIC is working to turn unsafe or unproductive properties back into vibrant, tax-contributing homes or businesses. The result is a net positive to individuals, families, neighborhoods and the county.

Since its inception four years ago, the COCLT has built 50 permanently affordable homes in communities across Franklin County. The goal is to create more affordable housing options for individuals in under-served neighborhoods and neighborhoods in transition to bridge the affordability and racial homeownership gap.

By retaining permanent control of the land, the Trust is able to sell homes at a more accessible price point and prevent individuals from reselling the home at a rate that pushes the home out of reach to working individuals and families. Land Trust homeowners are still able to earn equity in their homes and can sell at any time.

“One of the challenges of creating affordable housing options in a hot real estate market or across neighborhoods in transition is that the demand for property can entice homeowners to sell quickly. Without maintaining the land lease, many of our homes would now be priced out of reach to those we are trying to serve or be turned over to individuals who aren’t community-minded. At the end of the day, our main priority is to improve the communities we serve knowing it will improve the lives of the individuals and families who live here,” added Williams.

The COCLT is also proud to acknowledge the partners who helped bring these projects to fruition and who are supporting the next 50 homes. It is expected the COCLT will deliver its next 50 homes in the next 24 months.

***About COCIC: The Franklin County Land Bank***

COCIC is a non-profit organization formed by the Franklin County Commissioners in 2012 to improve the quality of neighborhoods and communities within Franklin County. More information about COCIC can be found at [www.cocic.org](http://www.cocic.org) and information about the Central Ohio Community Land Trust is available at [www.coclt.org](http://www.coclt.org).

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