

# FACT SHEET: SCATTERED SITE HOUSING CORPORATE STANCE

CORPORATE STANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We, the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois, support a just, peaceful and amicable implementation of scattered-site housing in Springfield. November, 1994</li></ul>
BACKGROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In August, 1994, the Springfield Housing Authority (SHA) announced plans to construct thirty-six multi-family public housing units to be located in four different neighborhoods in Springfield.</li><li>• The Springfield City Council, concerned about the extreme state of disrepair of public housing in Springfield, demanded their rehabilitation before approving any new housing projects. To block construction of the new units, the City Council first tried to fire the entire SHA board. That attempt unsuccessful, they then voted 9-1 to appoint four additional members to the existing five member SHA board. The addition of these four, all opposed to the scattered-site housing project, secured a majority vote against the construction of these units.</li><li>• Thirteen Springfield Dominicans attended the Preaching Conference in mid-September in Adrian, Michigan. Its focus, Preaching for Justice, exhorted and charged us to preach justice and truth within our own local circumstances. This charge, joined with our General Chapter Ordination mandating our study of racism, compelled us to address the matter of scattered-site housing in Springfield. We began by seeking accurate information about the controversy and invited Church leaders from all denominations in Springfield and others who work with persons who are poor to meet at Sacred Heart Convent on September 21, 1994.</li><li>• During the meeting it became evident that SHA's track record did not inspire confidence in their executing a strategy that would be in the best interest of everyone in Springfield. Statements of what scattered-site housing brings to a neighborhood indicated that racism was at the heart of the controversy.</li><li>• Numerous meetings of this group, which came to be known as the Coalition for Housing Justice, led us to attend City Council meetings and SHA Board meetings. Contacts were made with HUD officials at the Federal level.</li></ul>
GOSPEL VALUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Justice, acceptance of all peoples, honesty, integrity</li></ul>
CHURCH AND RELIGIOUS STATEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Homelessness and Housing: A Human Tragedy, A Moral Challenge (USCC, 1988)</li><li>• Moving Beyond Racism: Learning to see with the eyes of Christ (A Pastoral letter from the Bishops of Illinois, 2000)</li></ul>

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CURRENT  
REALITIES

- The board of 1994 was removed by HUD and a temporary administrator was appointed to run the agency and make necessary changes. This was accomplished in about a year. SHA is currently operating under a new board of directors.
- Scattered-site housing was completed with a few minor changes.
- Our congregation's involvement with The Springfield Project has grown out of this stance and was endorsed by the General Chapter of 1997.
- Further, the former John Hay Homes were demolished and a new Madison Park Place has been constructed on the same site. This was completed in 2000. This new housing is for multi-level income persons. Madison Park Place has homes for immediate purchase, for rent, and for purchase over a long period of time.

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RESOURCES

- [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org)  
National Coalition for the Homeless
- [www.nccbuscc.org](http://www.nccbuscc.org)  
U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops – Social Development and World Peace department.