

LEUTHC

Little Earth of United Tribes Housing Corporation

Mission Statement

Provide members of the American Indian community and all Little Earth residents an opportunity to live cooperatively together in safe, secure, attractive and affordable homes.

The Little Earth of United Tribes Housing Corporation (LEUTHC) is the owner and manager of the Little Earth housing complex. LEUTHC was formed in 1994 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to acquire and renovate the housing development which had fallen into disrepair during a time when the ownership of the development was in question. Beginning in 1995, LEUTHC arranged for new financing for the property and began rehabilitating the housing units and grounds. The organization oversaw the reroofing of many of the units, the application of new stucco to the exterior, the installation of patio fences and new windows for most of the units, and in 2004 a major multi-million dollar project was undertaken to rehabilitate

the total physical property, to be completed in 2006. The Little Earth Community is also undertaking a major technology initiative for the families of the Little Earth community to bridge the digital divide.

The LEUTHC Board includes residents and a number of housing and development professionals from outside the complex. The organization is led by the Executive Director of the Little Earth Community Partnership and is responsible for providing community leadership on projects, hiring a property management company and assessing the services provided by that company.

Theresa Dunkley

Since the early 1970s, Little Earth has provided a stable, culturally-relevant community for people of American Indian heritage in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. As the only urban housing development run by American Indians in the United States, the Little Earth community provides affordable housing and a myriad of support services designed to help its residents adjust to life in the big city.

Little Earth was in its infancy in 1973 when Theresa Dunkley and her eight children moved to the community from the Red Lake Indian Reservation. A member of the Red Lake band of Ojibwe, Theresa moved to Minneapolis in search of a better, more stable life for her family. She found in Little Earth a community uniquely suited to help her adjust to life off the reservation and her responsibilities as a single parent.

Due to the varied housing options available at Little Earth, Theresa was able to move to different units in the community as her needs changed. As her children graduated from high school and moved out on their own, she was able to move out of her original 5-bedroom townhome into the 2-bedroom unit she is in today.

A quiet, unassuming woman, Theresa also raised three of her grandchildren at Little Earth, where she still lives today.

"At Little Earth, it's your home. And living with other American Indian families made it easier for us to find the right path without losing touch with our heritage."

