



DATE: January 20, 2025

RE: Remembering Senator Dziedzic

TO: MN Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee

We were all blessed by God, to know Senator Kari Dziedzic, a humble, loving, caring, faithful woman who listened to others and helped create, support and pass solutions to help folks have their basic needs met, including strengthening tenant rights laws, safe homes free of lead paint and pipes, affordable housing and homeownership opportunities and prevention and homelessness services, supported by our state resources.

I had the opportunity to share some special memories (prior to the COVID -19 pandemic) with Senator Dziedzic, as I thanked her for all her work and her father's work in NE Minneapolis, where I was born, and am a member of Elim Church (now Mill City).

Kari attended our Elim pre-school as a child. I worked with her father, Minneapolis Councilmember Walt Dziedzic, who helped us develop an emergency shelter at Elim Church in the winter of 1982-1983 and then he provided me some ideas on how to create Elim Transitional Housing (1983-2012) which became a model that has been utilized throughout the Twin Cities, the State of Minnesota and nationally to help thousands of families, youth, singles and couples to have a home.

Senator Kari Dziedzic's life and legacy will always be remembered. As Joy Smallfield, a NE neighborhood resident, said on Facebook and in the Northeastern Newspaper, "Kari was a true example of what compassionate leadership is. Kind, intelligent, diligent. She always showed up for the community."

God's peace,

Sue Watlov Phillips, M.A.

Executive Director, MICAH