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**For Immediate Release**

**PRE-FORECLOSURE NOTICES INCREASE 8% IN 2010**  
*Record Number of Minnesota Homeowners Receive Notice in 2010*

*Saint Paul, MN* (January 20, 2011) – The Minnesota Home Ownership Center has compiled the pre-foreclosure notices received by the Homeownership Advisors Network (statewide network of housing counseling agencies) through the end of 2010 and the numbers continue to show that Minnesota households are struggling with mortgage payments even as other signs point to an overall improved economy.

For the year, the number of pre-foreclosure notices issued by foreclosing entities statewide increased 8% (Eight Percent) in 2010 over 2009, from 66,570 to 71,665. In the Twin Cities metro area, the number of notices received increased by 1,334, a 3% increase over 2009.

Homeowners in Greater Minnesota seem to be struggling more, as the number of pre-foreclosure notices issued increased FIFTEEN PERCENT. 3,761 more households received notice in 2010 (28,522) than in 2009 (24,761).

“While we are seeing signs that the housing market may be stabilizing, these numbers show that Minnesota is not out of the woods yet and that tens of thousands of Minnesota families are still facing their own personal foreclosure crisis,” stated Ed Nelson, Marketing and Communications Manager for the MN Home Ownership Center. “On a brighter note, the rate of increase has slowed and in the Twin Cities the trend has almost leveled off. Whether this signals a possible decline in pre-foreclosure notices to be received in 2011 remains to be seen.”

Minnesota households received a total of 71,665 notices in 2010:

	<b>Q1 10</b>	<b>Q2 10</b>	<b>Q3 10</b>	<b>Q4 10</b>	<b>2010 TOTAL</b>
<b>2010 Quarterly Statewide Totals</b>	<b>18,412</b>	<b>17,001</b>	<b>18,982</b>	<b>17,270</b>	<b>71,665</b>

Minnesota State law (MN Statute 580.021) requires that the foreclosing party provide information regarding foreclosure prevention counseling services to the mortgagee (homeowner) AND provide the homeowner’s name, address, and most recent known telephone number to an authorized foreclosure prevention counseling agency - BEFORE filing the notice of pendency.

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Once a member of the Homeownership Advisors Network receives notification from the lender/servicer/homeowners association, they then contact the homeowner, and track the number of notifications received during the month in their monthly reporting to the Center.

Additional information about pre-foreclosure notices and the recently compiled data can be found at the Minnesota Home Ownership Center's housing blog here: [www.hocmn.blogspot.com](http://www.hocmn.blogspot.com)

Homeowners seeking assistance with a loan modification or who are worried about foreclosure are encouraged to contact the Homeownership Advisors Network. Homeowners can connect with a nonprofit counselor in their area at [www.hocmn.org](http://www.hocmn.org) or by calling (866) 462-6466.

***Minnesota Home Ownership Center** is a nonprofit organization that promotes successful and sustainable home ownership for low- and moderate-income Minnesotans through counseling and education services for first-time home buyers and those struggling with foreclosure. The Center leads Homeownership Advisors Network, a statewide network of more than 50 nonprofit partners across Minnesota.*

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