



UNITY
OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS



NEW ORLEANS
REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

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Contact: Jasmine J. Haralson, Director of External Affairs

Phone: 504.658.4421; Email: jjharalson@nola.gov

Website: www.noraworks.org

Public-Private Partnership to Break Ground on Apartments for Workforce and Disabled Homeless

The New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) and UNITY of Greater New Orleans, the nonprofit coordinating the work of 60 organizations serving the homeless, will break ground Saturday, Nov. 10, at 10 a.m. to celebrate the beginning of construction on a mixed-income Permanent Supportive Housing building designed to help solve the problem of chronic homelessness while also providing affordable housing for the city's workforce.

The building, a former assisted living residence foreclosed on after Hurricane Katrina, is located at 2101 Louisiana Avenue in Central City. The ground-breaking ceremony is open to the public.

"NORA was proud to partner with UNITY once again on a project that provides housing to some of the most under-served citizens in our community," said Jeff Hebert, Executive Director of NORA. "This project showcases the diversity of NORA's work in the city."

"New Orleans has become a national leader in the rate at which we're reducing homelessness," said Martha Kegel, Executive Director of UNITY. "This apartment building demonstrates the best practices that have led to this success."

Permanent Supportive Housing is affordable rental housing linked to on-site case management services. It is the only nationally proven method for ending the chronic homelessness of people with disabilities.

The event will feature a partnership of business, government, philanthropies, nonprofits and civic leaders breaking ground on these new homes. The project is a collaboration of many partners including: Alliant Capital, Ltd., Bank of America, Belle Reve, Capital One, City of New Orleans, Community Solutions (formerly Common Ground Community), Downtown Development District, Ella West Freeman Foundation, Fannie Mae, Foundation for Louisiana, Greater New Orleans Foundation, LA Department of Health & Hospitals, LA Housing Corporation/Louisiana Office of Community Development, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, HRI Properties, Housing Authority of New Orleans, Keller Family Foundation, Living Cities, Melville Charitable Trust, National Alliance to End Homelessness, Neville Development, LLC, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, RosaMary Foundation, Steelcase Foundation, Technical Assistance Collaborative, University of Pennsylvania Center for Urban Redevelopment Excellence, Woodward Design+Build, and other foundations and individual donors.

The former senior residence will be rehabilitated and upgraded into mixed income housing for formerly homeless tenants and tenants with incomes at or below 50% Area Median Income level. The upgrade will include renovations incorporating office spaces for onsite social services and Property and Building Management staff. Renovation includes a mix of 10 efficiencies and 32 one-bedroom units. The energy-efficient building will feature a large internal courtyard with a water feature, a fitness room, a computer lab, a multi-purpose room, case management offices, a 24-hour staffed front desk, and security cameras.

A UNITY survey of the homeless in January 2012 showed that 4,903 people are unsheltered or in temporary homeless shelters in New Orleans and Jefferson Parish on any given night. That number is 2.4 times higher than in January 2005 before Hurricane Katrina, but 58 percent lower than in January 2007, in large part due to the widespread implementation of permanent housing programs for the homeless and at-risk throughout the area.

UNITY of Greater New Orleans is a nonprofit organization founded in 1992. UNITY was selected from 9000 organizations nationwide to receive the Nonprofit Achievement Award in 2010 from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

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NORA is charged with implementing redevelopment projects for the City of New Orleans through acquiring and disposing of both residential and commercial properties and the disposition of Road Home properties in Orleans Parish.