



For immediate release

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Local leaders celebrate Community Housing Network development

Columbus Mayor Coleman receives Community Leadership Award

Columbus, Ohio – More than 100 civic leaders celebrated the grand opening of Community Housing Network's latest supportive housing development today.

Located at 550 E. Rich St., in the Discovery District neighborhood, the Hawthorn Grove development is a 40-unit, three-story apartment building constructed on the former site of a vacant parking lot. The structure's Italianate architectural features reflect homes in the historic district.

CHN, a non-profit organization that owns and manages housing for people with disabilities, invested \$7 million in developing and constructing the apartments.

According to CEO Samantha Shuler, the affordable housing development serves residents seeking to recover from mental illness. Tenants hold their own leases and pay rent.

She praised the funders who gathered to hear speeches by elected officials and private-sector investors, tour the building and mingle with residents at a reception. “With your support, the men and women of Hawthorn Grove will get the treatment that leads to recovery, discover joy in their success, and find hope in an uplifting home,” she said.

Nearly half of the total funding to develop and construct the building came from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County.

During the ceremony, Columbus Mayor Michael B. Coleman was recognized with the organization's Community Leadership Award for his commitment to affordable housing development. Coleman was a member of CHN's founding board of trustees in 1987, and during 16 years as mayor, committed city funds to supportive housing developments, and founded the Affordable Housing Trust of Columbus and Franklin County.

Additional funding for Hawthorn Grove came from the Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Franklin County Commissioners, the City of Columbus, and multiple private investors, including the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, Huntington Bank, Arlington Bank, Nationwide Insurance, and Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing.

The Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority provides rent subsidies to limit the rent burden on residents to 30 percent of their income. The ADAMH board and Concord Counseling Services offer supportive services on site, including counseling, recovery support, and employment readiness training.

The apartments are surrounded by educational and cultural offerings within the city's Discovery District, allowing the community to play a role in supporting residents' independence.

MORE

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Hawthorn Grove photos available on request.

About Community Housing Network, Inc. – CHN develops, owns and manages permanent supportive housing for people disabled by mental illness, addiction disorders and other special needs such as homelessness. CHN owns and operates more than 1,800 supportive housing units throughout Franklin County, including Columbus and its suburbs. A critical part of CHN's mission is connecting residents to services that support their mental health, recovery from addiction, and return to stability. A high percentage of CHN tenants achieve successful housing. 2014 data show that close to 90 percent of residents stayed in CHN housing or exited to other stable housing, including rental apartments and Section 8 subsidized housing. Of those who exited, only 3 percent returned to emergency shelter.

CHN is a member of the Affordable Housing Alliance of Central Ohio, an advocacy group composed of 11 local housing organizations whose goal is to increase the supply of affordable housing in Franklin County.

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