Community Housing Network to invest $9 million in Pontiac in 32-home Unity Park Rental development

Troy, MI – Community Housing Network has announced the construction of 32 scattered-site, single family, lease-to-purchase homes in the eastern half of Unity Park, Pontiac. The targeted construction start is October 2013 with completion of all 32 homes, which will be available for residents of mixed income levels, slated for the fall of 2014. Two-, three- and four-bedroom homes will be available.

Funding for the $9 million development, just south of downtown Pontiac, is from a housing tax credit reservation through Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The homes will be built on properties, some vacant for years, purchased through the City of Pontiac, the Oakland County Treasurer’s Office and the Michigan Land Bank Fast Track Authority.

“This is the biggest project CHN has ever undertaken,” says Kirsten Elliott, vice president of development. “This is a true community revitalization project, will strengthen the fabric of the community, increase property values and will make a better community for the people we serve.” Unity Park Rentals will reduce the vacant-parcel rate within the development’s footprint by approximately one-third.

The development continues CHN’s commitment to Unity Park following the collaboration with two partner agencies in building 18 new-construction homes, which provided homeownership opportunities, as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) 2. In addition, CHN created a community garden for the neighborhood.

Eight of the homes will be designated for supportive housing with supportive services coordinated by Community Housing Network. Three of the eight supportive homes will be fully accessible, while the remaining 24 will have accessible entrances.

Community Housing Network is a nonprofit organization committed to providing homes for people in need through proven strategies of homelessness prevention, housing assistance and development, community education and referral, advocacy and additional services. The organization carries out its work in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties. In 2012 it was recognized by Crain’s Detroit Business as a Cool Place to Work and by the Detroit Free Press Top 100 Workplace. For more information, visit http://www.communityhousingnetwork.org.

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