



Hope Village to Break Ground This Week in Albuquerque

New Mexico's first single-site permanent supportive housing development is designed for those experiencing chronic homelessness

August 10, 2020: When Hope Village breaks ground in Albuquerque this week, it will mark the beginning of New Mexico's first single-site permanent supportive housing development for those experiencing chronic homelessness with a mental illness and substance use disorder. It will also be among the first housing developments in the country to incorporate the principles of trauma-informed care into its design, which is intended to create a living space that makes residents feel safe, unconfined and connected to the outdoors. Hope Village will be owned and operated by HopeWorks, formerly St. Martin's Hospitality Center.

"The time has come in Albuquerque and in New Mexico to create permanent supportive housing that is tailored to the needs of our most vulnerable clients," said Greg Morris, executive director of HopeWorks. "We want to give Hope Village residents the kind of home and sense of community that will allow them to heal and recover from the trauma they have experienced in their lives and on the streets."

Hope Village will be located at Third Street and Mountain in Downtown Albuquerque, adjacent to HopeWorks' day shelter. The three-story, 38,000 SF building will consist of 42 one-bedroom furnished apartments with on-site staff and amenities. All residents will have access to on-site

support services including medical care and mental and behavioral health services. The development is expected to be finished in August 2021.

“With so many services for the homeless community in the Wells Park area, we know it takes a toll on the neighborhood,” said Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller. “That’s why we’re committed to investing in projects like this one that get more chronically homeless people off the streets and into permanent housing. This will boost Wells Park and move us closer to our long-term goals on homelessness.”

Hope Village is designed to provide an open and inviting environment that minimizes the effects of trauma for individuals who have experienced homelessness. The living space will be open and airy with minimal walls and clear sight lines throughout, helping residents feel secure and safe while avoiding any sense of confinement. With multiple windows, the apartments will have abundant light and create a feeling of connection to the outdoors.

Other trauma-informed care design elements include:

- Equal portions of living space and common areas for residents to meet, commune, and retreat
- Multiple and varied sightlines throughout the property
- Smaller, more “cozy” individual dwelling units
- Wide hallways that are viewed as “streets” with each unit having its own front porch. Hallways become a place of gathering, communication, counseling and meeting neighbors.

Hope Village will also have a community room, a demonstration kitchen with a small dining area as well as a fitness room, library, internet café and mailroom. A large exterior courtyard will have terraced gardens with picnic areas and canopies and will act as the residents’ backyard. Another courtyard that is open to the sky and enveloped by the building will allow residents to be outdoors year-round.

Hope Village represents a unique collaboration between HopeWorks, the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority (MFA). YES Housing, Inc. is the developer, and the architect is Mullen Heller Architects.

“Hope Village brings a resource to the local housing continuum in Bernalillo County that has not previously existed,” said Bernalillo County Commissioner Debbie O’Malley. “This single-site supportive housing complex will provide a stable platform for the health, recovery and personal growth of vulnerable individuals. I am proud of this collaboration and the steps we are taking to change the landscape for future generations.”

“YES is honored to be a part of such a critically-needed development in New Mexico,” said Chris Baca, president and CEO of YES Housing, Inc. “Numerous interactions with area residents and elected and public officials have brought us all to this point with one goal: to provide supportive

housing that will give individuals the stability to improve their lives. The entire community will benefit because of Hope Village.”

“Hope Village is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when the public and private sectors work together for a common purpose,” said Isidoro Hernandez, executive director of MFA. “We are honored to be a part of that partnership and to help make this crucially-needed development a reality. Hope Village will make a real difference in people’s lives.”

Founded in 1985, HopeWorks is the largest nonprofit serving the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in New Mexico. Every year, approximately 15,000 men, women and children are given access to an onsite day shelter where their basic needs are met: food, clothing, mail, storage, showers, laundry, hygiene and telephone/internet access. HopeWorks also provides mental and behavioral health, employment, and housing services.

For more information about Hope Village, visit hopeworksnm.org/hope-village.

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Media Contacts:

Annam Manthiram, HopeWorks, Chief Development and Communications Officer
amanthiram@hopeworksnm.org
(505)242-4300, ext. 238

Leann Kemp, MFA, Director of Communications and Marketing
lkemp@housingnm.org
(505)767- 2254