

Supportive housing development shows economic impact in action

Richardson Apartments creates dozens of jobs and transforms lives

San Francisco, CA – As San Francisco grapples with budget priorities, one local project is demonstrating the economic power of prioritizing investment in people. With construction of Richardson Apartments nearly done, the economic impact of this supportive housing development is already being felt. A joint development between Community Housing Partnership and Mercy Housing, the project has created approximately 60 jobs per day for construction workers since breaking ground in February 2010, with half of those jobs going to San Francisco residents. When completed in October, the Richardson building will provide three retail spaces for local small businesses and will employ 17 full-time staff, many of whom are trained by Community Housing Partnership’s nationally recognized program to help formerly homeless re-enter the workforce.

The Drs. Julian and Raye Richardson Apartments, located in Hayes Valley and being built by San Francisco’s Cahill Contractors, will contain 120 units of housing. Cahill President Chuck Palley notes, “When our city dollars are invested in supportive housing, effective organizations like CHP and Mercy are not only transforming lives, they’re helping stimulate San Francisco’s economy.” In addition to the dozens of current construction jobs and 17 staff positions to be created, the Richardson building will house a social venture cafe that will train 20 homeless or at-risk individuals.

Community Housing Partnership and nonprofit organizations in San Francisco are on guard as the city reviews the possibility of large cuts to supportive housing. “Every day on the Richardson construction zone, San Franciscans are working to improve our city,” says CHP’s Executive Director Gail Gilman. “Our commitment to helping people move beyond homelessness isn’t just about building high quality housing; it’s about giving opportunity to hardworking people.”

Developed in partnership with affordable housing nonprofit Mercy Housing, Richardson Apartments will be owned and operated by CHP and will augment CHP’s nearly 800 units of supportive housing in the organization’s portfolio. While Community Housing Partnership

currently serves 1,800 people per year through housing, job training, leadership development and employment programs, it also employs 200 people, over half of whom were once homeless.

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ABOUT COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

Formed in 1990 by people who had been homeless, advocates for the homeless and affordable housing developers, Community Housing Partnership is a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization that develops and operates permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless people. Community Housing Partnership currently serves 1,800 people per year through housing, services, job training, leadership development and employment programs. Community Housing Partnership currently owns and/or operates eleven housing sites that serve formerly homeless adults and families and has three new projects in the pipeline. Community Housing Partnership also engages in community and economic development through its certified job training programs, a community organizing project and a social enterprise that employs formerly homeless adults. Community Housing Partnership recently launched the Treatment and Supportive Housing Program, an outpatient substance abuse and mental health treatment program to assist its tenants who struggle with those issues.

Community Housing Partnership is financially stable with an annual operating budget of approximately \$10 million and reserves appropriate for its size and scope. The organization has an outstanding staff of over 200 people, over half of whom were once homeless. For more information about Community Housing Partnership please visit www.chp-sf.org.

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About Mercy Housing

Mercy Housing, a national not-for-profit affordable housing organization headquartered in Denver, has a presence in 41 states, serves more than 135,000 people on any given day and has participated in the development, financing or operation of more than 39,000 affordable homes, both rental and single family. Mercy Housing serves families, seniors and people with special needs (formerly homeless, people with HIV/AIDS and the developmentally disabled).

For more information about Mercy Housing, please visit [mercyhousing.org](http://www.mercyhousing.org)

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