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REDMOND TOGETHER CENTER CAMPUS SECURES MAJOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Initiative will create 280 affordable homes and house 20+ local human service providers

A major campaign to provide affordable housing and a new campus for local nonprofit service providers in Redmond, Washington, is moving forward thanks to the Washington State Housing Finance Commission (Commission). The Commission, which supports the development and preservation of affordable housing through awards of federal tax credits and bonds, allocated a total of \$25,000,000 in estimated tax-credit equity and \$38,100,000 in bonds for the new Together Center campus.

The Together Center started 31 years ago when four nonprofit agencies joined forces to purchase an old strip mall. Today, the Together Center is a human services hub where 20-plus nonprofit agencies coordinate help for more than 30,000 Eastside residents annually. The nonprofit site ownership and the financing provided by the Commission will allow the Together Center to start a new chapter of enhanced service to the Eastside community.

“The Washington State Housing Finance Commission’s support is a major milestone in our efforts to serve the Eastside,” said Kim Sarnecki, CEO of the Together Center. “The current crisis is a reminder of how important nonprofits are to our local safety net. I am gratified that so many partners, including the Commission, share our vision for a community that is welcoming and supportive to everyone who calls this special place their home.”

“We are thrilled to see this project coming to fruition,” said Redmond Mayor Angela Birney. “Redmond strives to be a welcoming community where everyone has access to the services they need. This new affordable housing and non-profit campus is an important addition to our community and wonderful expression of our priorities.”

Last year, the Together Center selected Inland Group and Horizon Housing Alliance as its campus redevelopment partners. This project team will:

- Produce 49,000 square feet of ground-floor space for human service nonprofits that provide case management, physical and behavioral health care, substance abuse counseling, cultural navigators and translation, resources and advocacy for people living with disabilities, early childhood development intervention, workforce educational opportunities and more.
- Led by Horizon Housing Alliance, develop 80 units of housing for families exiting homelessness, which will have full-time case management in addition to property management to help keep people housed and healthy.
- Led by Inland Group, create 200 units of housing affordable to families who make 50-60 percent of area median income.

The Inland Group owns and operates more than 800 units of affordable housing in King County, with another 2,200 affordable units under construction or in development in the county. “Inland is in the

business of making our communities more inclusive,” said Darin Davidson, CEO of Inland Group. “We are really proud of what this project will accomplish for the Eastside and appreciate the support of the Commission and our partnership with Together Center.”

Horizon Housing Alliance is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation focused on developing affordable housing by partnering with best in class partners to create cost efficient housing and services to help residents thrive. “We know individuals and families can exit homelessness for good when they have the right help,” said John Pilcher, Executive Director of Horizon. “The Together Center campus will be a huge asset in addressing family homelessness on the Eastside.”

Microsoft is a major supporter of the Together Center project and has invested \$6,800,000 through A Regional Coalition for Housing (“ARCH”), a coalition of local governments in East King County created to cooperatively plan for and provide affordable housing. This investment is part of Microsoft’s \$750 million commitment to advancing the development and preservation of affordable housing on the Eastside. “The Together Center project will create much-needed affordable housing and a new home for community-based nonprofits on the Eastside,” said Jane Broom, Senior Director, Microsoft Philanthropies. “This project is an example of the kind of innovative thinking and public-private collaboration we need to address our region’s homelessness and housing crisis.”

The project is expected to begin construction in Q1 of 2021 with units available for occupancy in 2023.