



First tenants move in to Prior Crossing

44 studio apartments on Green Line is Saint Paul's first supportive housing for youth who have experienced homelessness

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SAINT PAUL (Sept. 14, 2013) – Prior Crossing, Ramsey County's first supportive housing for youth and young adults who have experienced homelessness, is now open.

Eight tenants moved in this week, with more applications being processed. They are youth and young adults who have experienced long term homelessness on their own, referred by such organizations as SafeZone, the High School for Recording Arts and the county.

Prior Crossing is located at 1949 University Avenue just east of Prior Avenue. The building is within blocks of the Green Line's Fairview station, making the housing conveniently accessible to both downtown areas and plenty of job and educational opportunities.

Prior Crossing is the result of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative's work with The House of Hope Presbyterian Church and other local congregations and the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation. The congregation donated \$500,000 in initial funding to leverage further private and public capital and operating funds.

Capital funding for the 44-unit, \$10.7 million project was finalized with \$8 million in state tax credit funds awarded to Beacon in 2014, when the state legislature authorized \$100 million for affordable housing bonds. Other public funders include the City of Saint Paul (\$1.1 million) and the Metropolitan Council (\$927,000). Saint Paul Public Housing Authority allocated the housing 32 Section 8 project-based vouchers that keep rents affordable.

The Wilder Foundation provides on-site supportive services to young tenants, with a particular focus on helping them to complete educational goals, seek a career path and develop healthy independence and life skills.

The combination of stable housing and support has produced positive outcomes at Beacon's Minneapolis youth housing, Nicollet Square, where transition coaches support youth moving



from homelessness to stability in areas such as personal growth and development, budgeting, employment, education, health care and connecting with community resources.

Nicollet Square tenants find jobs, complete educational milestones, build a rental history and belong to a supportive community. Typically more than 90 percent are employed at any given time, about twice the rate for peers of similar demographics. And 90 percent of those who have completed high school or a GED are pursuing some form of post-secondary education.

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About Beacon: Beacon is an interfaith collaborative of congregations committed to ending homelessness through housing development, shelter and advocacy. For more information visit www.beaconinterfaith.org or follow @BelieveInHome.

About Wilder: The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation is a nonprofit organization that helps children, families and older adults in the greater Saint Paul area through direct service programs, research, leadership development and community building. Established in 1906, the mission of the Wilder Foundation is to promote the social welfare of persons in the greater Saint Paul metropolitan area without regard to nationality, sex, color, religion, or prejudice. For more information about the Wilder Foundation, visit www.wilder.org.

About The House of Hope: The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, PC (USA), is a congregation of 1,600 members located on St. Paul's historic Summit Avenue. Known for excellence in worship and music, an educated, open-minded and searching approach to faith, and a passion for social issues and community involvement, the church offers many opportunities for fellowship, worship, education and service for all ages. For more information, please visit www.hohchurch.org.