

New Hope Housing breaks ground on community for families

Multifamily project will provide homes and social services off Texas 288

By Erin Mulvaney | October 15, 2016



Photo: Courtesy Of New Hope Housing

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New Hope Housing's 187-unit multifamily complex will be adjacent to a new Star of Hope facility.

An ecosystem is taking shape in south Houston to provide housing and social services for low-income residents on the largest piece of undeveloped land inside Beltway 8.

Currently, the only thing that exists on the roughly 40 acres at Texas 288 and Reed Road is a school, a service station and a firehouse.

But construction kicked off last week on a 187-unit multifamily project by New Hope Housing, which will be built next to Star of Hope's new family development campus now under construction. The New Hope project will be the Houston-based affordable housing developer's first project for families. The nonprofit company has developed single-room occupancy projects throughout the inner city.

Construction began Wednesday on the New Hope Housing project that is slated to open in 2018 on 7 acres.

The \$36 million project will have one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments ranging from 750 to 1,250 square feet. Rent will be between \$625 and \$1,000 per month. It will serve families earning 30 to 60 percent of the average median income, which in Houston for a family of four is \$20,750 up to \$41,520.

Joy Horak-Brown, New Hope's president and CEO, said the project is an example of a multifamily project for low- and moderate-income people moving forward even as others in the Houston area have stalled. She said working alongside Star of Hope will enable the company to offer services for all of its residents.

"This puts us in a different arena," she said. "We want to lift people up from generational poverty."

She hopes the project will be a national model. To prepare, she visited other U.S. cities that do affordable housing well.

The Star of Hope campus will include emergency services for women and children, transitional housing and services such as job training and mental health counseling. It will also include a park, community center, chapel and bus stop.

"Affordable housing in Houston has hit a bump in the road," Horak-Brown said. "We have a balanced view. We think, 'How can we make our community a high-opportunity area?' We believe there is a need to revitalize inner-city neighborhoods."



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