



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Providence House, an affordable rental home with supports for 24 formerly homeless and vulnerable women in Calgary, is now ready to open its doors

Thanks to the Government of Alberta, Morrison Homes and generous donors

Calgary, Alberta (September 29, 2016) – The RESOLVE Campaign along with its Partner the Calgary Homeless Foundation and home builder Morrison Homes are celebrating the opening of Providence House, the second new construction project to be completed through the RESOLVE Campaign.

The issue of homelessness in Calgary is intensified by a critical shortage of affordable and supported housing. Providence House will provide permanent supportive rental housing for 24 vulnerable and homeless women. The project was funded by provincial government grants and built by Morrison Homes as part of a “Visionary” gift to the RESOLVE Campaign.

“There is an urgent need in our city for affordable housing with support services, and this building is a direct solution for 24 women who will no longer have to worry about where they will sleep at night,” said Alan Norris, President and CEO of Brookfield Residential Properties and Chair of the RESOLVE Campaign. “Providence House demonstrates the home builders commitment to supporting the community it helped build, the Government of Alberta’s work to provide affordable and supported homes for our citizens who need it most, and a very real example of the tangible difference the generous donors will have on the lives of vulnerable and homeless women in our community.”

The building is conveniently located in Crescent Heights, a community that has been very welcoming since the beginning of the project.

“This partnership of all levels of government, Calgary Home Builders and the RESOLVE Campaign continues to make ending homelessness possible in Calgary. Providence House represents more than just a home for 24 women. It represents a better future for them, their families and for all Calgarians,” said Diana Krecsy, President and CEO, Calgary Homeless Foundation.

In Canada, women’s homelessness accounts for a significant and growing percentage of the homeless population and the gendered experience of women’s homelessness is unique. As the largest and longest serving women’s organization in Calgary, the YWCA of Calgary will offer the future tenants of Providence House the support they need to empower them as they move from a place of vulnerability to resilience.

“Offering stable supportive housing options to women who have been homeless is vital to enabling women to live healthier lives free from violence,” says Heather Morley, Vice President of Programs and Services with the YWCA of Calgary. “We are grateful to be selected as the agency offering support to women at Providence House.”

This project inspired the entire team at Morrison Homes, and collectively they named the building Providence House. The name reflects the protective care the facility will provide its residents – physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially. The word *providence* can also be defined in terms of preparation for future eventualities, and so the name also reflects the optimism, empowerment and self-resilience that can be achieved through the promise of a brighter future.

Constructing purpose-built housing for the homeless sector is complex. Providence House has been designed to increase tenant integration through common rooms, shared dining rooms and meeting rooms.

“Morrison has been building homes for Calgarians since 1961, so being a part of the RESOLVE Campaign has been a truly inspiring experience for our company,” says Rob Kennedy, President, Multi-Family Division of Morrison Homes. “With the completion of Providence House, we celebrate this milestone in our city’s plan to end homelessness and the hope that it will bring to those that experience the heartache of not having a place to call home.”

The women who will be the future tenants of Providence House will know what it means to have stability, security and a place to call home.

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MEDIA INQUIRIES

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About CHF

The Calgary Homeless Foundation is a catalyst and enabler for Systems and Service Agencies to optimize client success. As the System Planner for Calgary's Homeless-Serving System of Care, CHF focuses on research and development, mobilization of knowledge and best practices to support and expand community responses to ending homelessness, funding (outcomes & impact) and increasing public and political awareness and will to take collective action on ending homelessness. CHF is committed to moving forward in partnership with the many homeless-serving agencies, the private sector, government partners, the faith community, other foundations and all Calgarians to end homelessness in Calgary. For more information, visit calgaryhomeless.com

The RESOLVE Campaign

RESOLVE is a unique collaboration of nine Partner agencies raising \$120 million to build affordable and supported rental housing for 3,000 vulnerable and homeless Calgarians. The nine respected and established agencies have partnered with government, business and community leaders, all resolving to make Calgary a better home – for everyone. The RESOLVE Partners include: Accessible Housing; Bishop O'Byrne Housing Association; Calgary Alpha House Society; Calgary Homeless Foundation; Calgary John Howard Society; Horizon Housing Society; Silvera for Seniors; The Mustard Seed; and Trinity Place Foundation of Alberta. For more information, visit resolvecampaign.com

About Morrison Homes

Morrison Homes is a leading large volume homebuilder headquartered in Calgary. As CHBA-Calgary Region's 12-time "Builder of the Year" and J.D. Power & Associates recipient, Morrison Homes is known for its commitment to quality and customer care. Founded in 1961, the company now builds single-family and multi-family homes in top communities in Edmonton and Calgary. For more information, visit www.morrisonhomes.ca

About YWCA of Calgary

The YWCA of Calgary is the largest and longest serving women's organization in Calgary. Through its more than 105 year history, the organization has touched tens of thousands of lives and evolved its programs to meet the changing needs of women in the community. The YWCA offers a continuum of programs and services for women, and their families, who are struggling with poverty, homelessness, family violence and isolation. With their focus on empowering women to move from a place of vulnerability to one of resilience, the YWCA continues to be there when and where she needs us most. For more information, visit ywcaofcalgary.com