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Permanent Supportive Housing Solution to End Homelessness for OC's Most Vulnerable Breaks Ground

The historical landmark renovation and expansion building project at WISEPlace serves as a model for future public/private partnerships

SANTA ANA, Calif. (June 15, 2023) — In a significant step towards ending homelessness for individuals in Orange County, [WISEPlace](#), a nonprofit community of hope and housing for women in crisis founded in 1929, broke ground on a modern expansion of its historic building in Santa Ana. In partnership with Jamboree Housing Corporation (Jamboree), a nonprofit affordable housing developer, the historically renovated and expanded building will become permanent supportive housing for 47 vulnerable residents.

"Building affordable housing has been our dream at WISEPlace for over 30 years. It's been such an honor to turn this dream into a reality and celebrate the groundbreaking with the community," stated Brateil Aghasi, chief executive officer of WISEPlace. "I am extending a heartfelt thank you to all of the public and private partners for their tireless efforts to work with WISEPlace to get this over the finish line and bring solutions to ending homelessness to the community."

The redevelopment project results from collaborative work and support from the City of Santa Ana, OC Housing Finance Trust, Supervisor Katrina Foley, local business leaders, and the Santa Ana residents and community. The renovation and expansion couldn't come at a better time, as the statistics on homelessness in Orange County are alarming, especially for unaccompanied women and aging seniors. According to the 2022 [Point In Time Count](#) effort, 5,718 county residents experienced homelessness; of those, 3,057 persons were unsheltered.

Together, Jamboree and WISEPlace worked to design and complete the expansion, creating a 43,000-square-foot residential community while restoring the current historic building. The project cost, estimated to be nearly \$30 million, was financed through various stakeholders, including the **City of Santa Ana** (\$3.8 million in capital financing, \$1.5 million to provide onsite services and 25 Project Based Vouchers), the **County of Orange** (\$1.5 million in capital financing), **Orange County Housing Finance Trust** (\$2.5 million), and **Bank of America** (\$15.7 million construction loan and \$20.1 million in tax credit equity).

“Breaking ground at the WISEPlace and Jamboree Housing permanent supportive housing project marks a new day in Orange County where creative collaborations result in significant progress towards meeting our housing goals,” said Supervisor Katrina Foley. “I’m honored that with my \$1.5 million contribution in American Rescue Plan grant funds, we help house 47 people in crisis, domestic violence survivors, and seniors. I look forward to working with more community and elected leaders to maximize our tax dollars and the unprecedented state and federal funding available to build more affordable housing.”

Each of the 47 furnished affordable housing units will have bathrooms, showers, and kitchenettes. The community spaces will have financial empowerment learning labs, dedicated wrap-around service areas, private counseling and case management spaces, wellness and fitness rooms and a welcoming outdoor courtyard complete with community gardens and room for domestic pets.

It will include studio apartments of approximately 360-425 sq. ft., reserved for individuals earning no more than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) and one (1) two-bedroom manager's unit as the 48th unit.

Additional enhancements of the North Broadway site will include more natural landscaping – creating a sense of home for residents – an upgraded security system with front office staff onsite 24/7, increased parking, seismic upgrades, operating kitchens, dedicated clinical counseling and case management rooms, and health and wellness areas.

“This Jamboree & WISEPlace housing collaboration shows the power of partnership when nonprofits strategically work with cities, counties and leaders at all levels to end homelessness in our community,” stated Laura Archuleta, chief executive officer of Jamboree. “We’re proud of this collaboration and look forward to continuing to be a leader in housing across California.”

For more information on WISEPlace and the development project, visit <https://wiseplace.org/expansion/>.

About WISEPlace

For nearly 100 years, WISEPlace has served more than 8,500 women by providing safe transitional and emergency shelter, counseling and mental health services, case management and addiction recovery, and employment assistance to help rebuild their lives. WISEPlace instills hope in its participants and provides a path to personal stability so they do not face adversity alone. The organization, in partnership with Jamboree, will renovate a portion of the existing 1920s building and construct permanent supportive housing while continuing the vital wrap-around services offered to all participants in multiple sites throughout Orange County. WISEPlace is headquartered in Santa Ana, California. For more information, visit wiseplace.org and follow WISEPlace on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @WISEPlace.

About Jamboree Housing Corporation

Jamboree Housing Corporation (Jamboree) is an award-winning, broad-based nonprofit housing development company that develops, acquires, renovates, and manages permanently affordable rental and ownership housing throughout California for 20,000+ residents -- working families, seniors, and people with special needs. Founded in 1990 and headquartered in Irvine, CA, Jamboree is a leading community development organization committed to sustaining excellence with high-quality, affordable housing that benefits the environment, economy and local

communities. Jamboree currently oversees \$1.5 billion in affordable housing projects in its development pipeline as part of a \$3.2 billion asset portfolio, including the development of and/or ownership interest in more than 10,000 homes in more than 100 California communities. Resident services with designated staff that foster learning, health and wellness, and community building are offered onsite at many Jamboree properties.

Currently, Jamboree offers resident services that foster learning, health and wellness, and community building at 47 Jamboree communities with designated staff at each location. For more information, visit jamboreehousing.com and follow Jamboree on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @JamboreeHousing.

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