

The Low Income Housing Institute celebrates the grand opening of

McDermott Place

**75 Units for Homeless Veterans & Other Individuals
Named in Honor of U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott**



Seattle, WA –November 17, 2009 --The grand opening celebration for McDermott Place, in Seattle’s Lake City neighborhood, is scheduled for Saturday December 12 at 10:00 am. The event will take place at McDermott Place, located at 12740 33rd Ave NE, across the street from the Lake City Fred Meyer store.

The celebration will feature a tour of the building and comments from Congressman Jim McDermott, King County Council member Larry Gossett, Jon Fine President & CEO of United Way of King County, Lisa Vatske of Dept. of Commerce, State Director of Veterans Affairs John Lee, Randy Robinson of Key Bank, North Helpline Executive Director Amy Besunder, and LIHI Board Member Alan Castle. Mayor-elect Mike McGinn and King County Executive-elect Dow Constantine have been invited.

McDermott Place will provide 75 permanent affordable units in the Lake City neighborhood for homeless individuals, with 38 of the units designated specifically for veterans. Homeless veterans are critically underserved and over-represented among the homeless population. An estimated one-third of homeless men are veterans. LIHI is partnering with Sound Mental Health to provide supportive services, including employment & job training.

North Helpline, a non-profit organization based in Lake City, will own a portion of the building at which they will operate the Lake City/Northgate Food Bank and an emergency services program for low-income residents. North Helpline will also host a free medical clinic with RotaCare and Neighborcare Health as service providers and partners.

McDermott Place has been built to strict environmental standards, meeting Washington state's new Evergreen standard and is LEED Certified equivalent. The roof material has high-reflectivity to minimize heat gain; a rain garden cleans storm water runoff before it enters the detention vault; no smoking is allowed in the building to preserve air quality; bike racks and bike storage are provided for residents, food bank clients and staff.

The building has been named in honor of Congressman Jim McDermott, who has served constituents in Washington state since 1970 in both the State and Federal Legislatures. "Rep. McDermott has been a wonderful champion for low-income and homeless people, veterans, the disabled, seniors and others in need. He has fought boldly for human rights, justice and social change. The LIHI Board and staff are greatly honored by Rep. McDermott's willingness to have this new housing named in his honor," states Sharon Lee, Executive Director of LIHI.

"McDermott Place is all about dignity, self-respect, and self-worth. These 75 affordable housing units will stand in affirmation to the principal and values that matter to us as a community, especially our determination to honor and care for our soldiers," said McDermott.

This housing is being funded through tax credits from Key Community Development Corporation and Washington State Housing Finance Commission. Other capital and operating funds have come from King County Veterans & Human Services Levy, City of Seattle, SHA, United Way of King County, Washington State Housing Trust Fund, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, a construction loan from KeyBank, and land loans from Sterling Savings Bank and US Bank. The Lake City Task Force on Homelessness is providing welcome baskets for residents.

North Helpline's funders include HUD, King County, City of Seattle, Seattle Foundation, Washington State, Frontier Bank and others.

When: Saturday December 12. 10:00 until noon.

Event Sponsor: KeyBank

Where: McDermott Place
12740 33rd Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98125

Architects: Runberg Architecture Group
& Schemata Workshop

Contractor: Walsh Construction Co.

About LIHI: The Low Income Housing Institute develops, owns and operates housing for the benefit of low-income, homeless and formerly homeless people in Washington State. Founded in 1991, LIHI has grown to be one of the most productive affordable housing developers in the Northwest. LIHI owns and/or manages over 1,700 housing units at 50 sites in six counties throughout the Puget Sound region.

For more information: please contact Sharon Lee, LIHI Executive Director, (206) 571-5730 or SharonL@lihi.org