

For Immediate Release
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Family Housing Preserved and Restored in South King County

LIHI's purchase saves 25 units of affordable housing for low-income families in Auburn

Seattle - The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) is proud to announce the preservation and renovation of 25 units of affordable housing at Auburn Manor, located at 950 14th Street NE in Auburn.

LIHI will celebrate the preservation of the Auburn Manor Apartments on Tuesday, January 23 from 10:30a.m. – Noon. The event will feature a tour of several units, as well as speeches by Mayor Charles Booth of Auburn, a resident of Auburn Manor, and other supporters of the project.

Auburn Manor is another successful effort to preserve “at-risk” Section 8 housing. The previous owner of Auburn Manor placed the property on the market for sale. LIHI purchased the property in December 1999 to prevent it from being converted to market-rate housing, which would have forced many of the families from their homes. Renovation funds were provided by the City of Auburn, King County Housing and Community Development Program, KeyBank, Washington State Office of Community Development, HUD, Impact Capital, Washington State Housing Finance Commission and the Washington Community Reinvestment Association. LIHI received tax credit equity investments from Enterprise Social Investment Corporation and Banc of America Housing Fund.

Under the former owner, the Tenants Union helped to organize the tenants of Auburn Manor so they could voice their concerns about the condition of their property. Upon purchase by LIHI, Auburn Manor underwent significant renovations including the construction of a new playground and community room, new roofing and exterior paint, enlarged windows and the installation of baseboard heaters. Auburn Manor has 19 two-bedroom units and 6 townhouse-style three-bedroom units. Approximately 36 children live in Auburn Manor, which is directly across the street from Dick Scobee Elementary School.

“We are very pleased to have the opportunity to preserve affordable housing in South King County,” said Sharon Lee, LIHI’s Executive Director. “As increasingly more Section 8 contracts expire, the need to save housing for low-income families has reached a critical state.” Section 8 rental assistance enables low-income households to pay 30% of their income for housing, with the balance of operating costs covered by HUD. Without the subsidy, many of the families at Auburn Manor would not be able to afford to stay there.

By the end of the year 2000, contracts on projects covering 13,632 units of Section 8 housing expired, representing 72% of the project-based Section 8 housing units in Washington. Many private owners who developed these units over 20 years ago are now interested in selling or converting the units to market-rate housing.

The Low Income Housing Institute is a private non-profit developer, owner and manager of affordable housing and has developed over 1,600 units of affordable housing in the Puget Sound region.

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