Ernestine Anderson Place Grand Opening!

On February 8th, LIHI held the Grand Opening of Ernestine Anderson Place in Seattle's Central District. Ernestine Anderson Place features permanent housing linked with supportive services for 45 homeless seniors, including 17 veterans, as well as housing for 15 low-income seniors. The building features generous community space for residents, including a library with computers, an exercise room, and a classroom.

Ernestine Anderson Place is named in honor of legendary jazz singer Ernestine Anderson, an international star from Seattle's Central Area and graduate of Garfield High. In a career spanning more than five decades, she has recorded over 30 albums. She has sung at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Monterey Jazz Festival, as well as at jazz festivals all over the world.

Ernestine Anderson Place is built green according to Washington State Evergreen Standards and designed with long term durability as a priority. The building features energy efficient insulation and fan systems and uses low VOC materials, Energy-Star appliances, and dual-flush toilets throughout. Ernestine Anderson Place is a non-smoking facility, helping

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Vote Each Day in May and Help LIHI Win $250,000 to House Homeless Veterans!

Vote daily in May to help us house veterans. You can help LIHI win $250,000 to House Homeless Veterans by voting on Facebook. To vote, visit www.LIHI.org.

Up to 21% of all homeless single adults in King County are U.S. Military Veterans. While the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) provides homes for 413 low-income and formerly homeless Veterans across Puget Sound as many as 1,200 are still experiencing homelessness in King County alone. With your votes, we'll win $250,000 to help build and rehab 50 apartments to assist local Veterans transitioning out of homelessness. We will also provide hygiene services to Vets at The Urban Rest Stop. We are competing against groups in Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky.

Be sure to vote every day in May!

Thank You!

LIHI Residents, Staff and Board
Dear Friends,

Thank You. We Won! Last November LIHI entered a Home Depot Foundation Facebook contest and won $25,000 to renovate Arion Court for homeless veterans. Thank you for taking time to vote for us!

Homes for Vets. Vote in May! We are competing for $250,000 to help homeless veterans and need you to vote for us. There is no cost to you. Go to LIHI.org or vote on the Home Depot Foundation Facebook page at http://bit.ly/VoteLIHI. Spread the word. We will use the funds to provide homes for 50 veterans. We will help over 1,000 vets at the Urban Rest Stops with free showers, laundry and restrooms.

Two National Awards. Ernestine Anderson Place received Honorable Mention for the 2013 Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Awards for senior housing. Gossett Place was ranked as one of the top four Innovative Projects in the country for the 2013 National Development Council Affordable Housing Awards.

Homeless Seniors. The opening celebration of Ernestine Anderson Place in February was a grand affair. Who would have known that we would benefit from the recession by buying a terrific site in the Central Area that was in foreclosure? We’ve quickly leased up 60 apartments for seniors and veterans. We are thrilled to honor jazz great Ernestine Anderson. Want to volunteer and help our seniors? Email volunteers@LIHI.org

Two Groundbreakings. Join us for our upcoming groundbreakings on 50 new apartments for seniors in Ballard and 57 apartments for families and vets in Bellevue. Both buildings are in transit-rich neighborhoods and will be built green. Residents will enjoy healthy, smoke-free environments.

2013 Gala & Auction. We are gearing up for our signature event to be held November 15 at the Hyatt Olive 8 in Seattle. Thank you to co-presenting sponsors KeyBank and Vulcan. All funds benefit our housing and supportive services programs and the Urban Rest Stops. If you would like to sponsor or donate an auction item contact us at auction@LIHI.org

Advocacy. LIHI brought the largest delegation of tenants, staff and board members to Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day in Olympia. Please support the State Housing Trust Fund and the National Housing Trust Fund as we sorely need both to help end homelessness.

In Gratitude,

Sharon H. Lee
LIHI Executive Director
to ensure good indoor air quality for the residents.

Speakers celebrating the opening of the building and paying tribute to jazz legend Ernestine Anderson, who was in attendance with many family members, included Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, who officially proclaimed February 8th, 2013 to be Ernestine Anderson Day. The City of Seattle provided $2.4 million in Housing Levy and HOME funds.

King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Council Chair Larry Gossett, Seattle City Councilmembers Nick Licata and Tom Rasmussen, and State Senator Adam Kline all paid tribute to Ms. Anderson and reminisced about the Central District’s rich jazz and cultural history.

Also commemorating the occasion were United Way of King County Board Member Alex Torres, Enterprise VP MA Leonard, US Bank Executive Catherine Danigelis, and WSHFC Commissioner Faouzi Sefrioui. Ms. Leonard noted that Enterprise provided $9.5 million in low income housing tax credits.

Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute artists Josie Howell, Honoria Hildreth, and Nikkita Oliver, humbled to be performing in the presence of Ms. Anderson, consecrated the occasion with poetry and song.

Ernestine Anderson Place is financed with funds from City of Seattle; King County; Tax Credit Equity through Enterprise and the Washington Housing Finance Commission; Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco; Seattle Housing Authority; HUD and United Way of King County.

The Affordable Housing Tax Credit Coalition (AHTCC) has awarded Ernestine Anderson Place an Honorable Mention Award for Senior Housing in the Charles L. Edson Tax Credit Excellence Awards. Presented to the most outstanding Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties, this national awards program celebrates the best in affordable rental housing.

Ernestine Anderson Place Wins Award!

Architect: Runberg Architecture Group
Contractor: Walsh Construction Co.

Ernestine Anderson (front) with LIHI Staff Valencia Chambers Manor (left) and Zena Dodson (right)
Gossett Place

We are pleased to announce that the National Development Council selected Gossett Place as one of the top five Innovation Projects in the country for their 2013 Affordable Housing Award. Gossett Place was showcased in Washington, D.C. at the recent NDC conference.

The 63 apartments at Gossett Place provide permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless people including: 12 veterans, 25 young adults, 8 couples and 17 singles. One unit houses on-site staff.

Located in Seattle’s University District, Gossett Place is close to transit, grocery stores, the library, employment, the University District Farmers Market and educational resources. The location has a Walkability score of 100 points. The property was originally slated to be a boutique hotel for visiting professors and parents of UW students. When the owner could not finance the hotel during the recession, LIHI was able to purchase the land with permits in place.

Gossett Place is built green with sustainability as a priority. Go to www.LIHI.org to view a video on Gossett Place.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

Ballard Senior Apartments
2014 NW 57th Street, Seattle

Ballard Senior Apartments will start construction in summer, 2013, providing 50 units of housing for seniors making 50% or less of area median income. The apartments will feature a community room, computer lounge and library, a back patio with seating and barbecue, a front porch, a green roof with patch gardening for residents and views of the Olympic Mountains.

As part of the HUD 202 program, rent will be 30% of a resident’s income. The housing is conveniently located near Ballard Commons, the public library, transit, and shopping.
How often have you searched around to find a public restroom? Many of us take for granted that we can find and use the restroom when we are in a restaurant, at work, at school, in a department store, or at the movies.

We also enjoy waking up each morning and taking a hot shower before heading out for work, school, exercise or other activities. But if you are a homeless individual or family, finding a safe, clean and welcoming place to shampoo, shower, brush your teeth and get cleaned up can be a major obstacle.

According to the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, it’s an obstacle that more than 3,100 homeless families with children in King County face. These families live in cars or emergency shelters, without access to restrooms, showers or laundry facilities. A recent One Night Count of homeless people conducted at midnight on January 24th found that a total of 2,736 homeless men, women and children were living on the streets of Seattle and King County.

A healthy community is created when everyone has access to clean water, showers, clean clothes, key services and restrooms to meet their personal hygiene needs. And no one can secure or maintain employment or education without a clean appearance.

LIHI’s Urban Rest Stops, hygiene centers in downtown Seattle and the U-District, provide individuals and families with free access to showers, laundry machines, restrooms and other on-site services. In 2012, the URS provided 49,055 showers, 35,432 laundry loads and 127,476 restroom uses. Patrons also benefit from haircuts, legal assistance with Veteran’s and Social Security benefits, health workshops, Hepatitis A and B testing and vaccinations. An average of 450 homeless people each day receive help.

Thankfully, when Seattle recently reduced funding for hygiene centers, LIHI and other community groups and advocates raised their voices to City Council and Mayor Mike McGinn to protect them. The funding was restored.

Thank you to all Urban Rest Stop donors, sponsors, volunteers, and community members for your continued support.

Check out our website: www.urbanreststop.org

Bellevue Apartments
204 - 111th Ave NE, Bellevue

Bellevue Apartments will break ground in fall, 2013. The building will feature 57 units of workforce housing in downtown Bellevue available to people making 60% or less of the area median income. Units range from studios to three-bedrooms. The complex will have underground parking, a community room, computer lab and gathering space.

Located near City Hall, shopping, and Sound Transit’s future East Link light rail, the housing serves families, veterans, and low-wage workers.
Join LIHI’s volunteer community!
Over the past year hundreds of volunteers joined us to help ensure that LIHI homes are available to the lowest income tenants. Volunteers, including LIHI tenants, contributed time and skills to maintain and improve apartments and community spaces, provided resources and educational programs for LIHI residents. Volunteers at the Urban Rest Stop helped patrons cope with the daily challenges of being homeless and assisted them in searching for jobs and housing. Many patrons also volunteered in small 15-30 minute increments helping keep the Rest Stop clean while waiting for their laundry to dry. 

Every volunteer helps LIHI accomplish our mission of ending homelessness one person, one family, and one community at a time! Visit http://bit.ly/volunteerwithLIHI to see current opportunities!

Celebrating Path with Art

Seen as inessential to survival, access to art is rarely extended to low income and homeless communities. But Path with Art believes that food and housing are not enough for adults to regain and maintain stability. Path with Art classes taught by professional teaching artists offer something critical to success in life yet frequently taken for granted – an opportunity to build self-confidence. Path with Art shares this opportunity with LIHI tenants at the Frye Apartments by providing classes ranging from pottery, acting, to watercolors. They also celebrate their students by turning Frye’s community room into a student art gallery during Pioneer Square’s Art Walk.

Reading Club by Seattle ID Rotary at Columbia Court

More than half of low-income children in our state aren’t ready when they enter kindergarten. For very low-income children, the figure is even higher—75 percent. Imagine being a child transitioning out of homelessness and growing up in a family learning to speak English – their challenge is even bigger. LIHI’s friends at the Seattle International District Rotary Club decided to step up to this challenge and give kids at Columbia Court an opportunity to immerse themselves in books and activities to help them prepare for the kindergarten experience.

“It’s been so rewarding! Recently, one of the young girls proudly showed us the library books she’d checked out for the first time. She then proceeded to read them aloud to every volunteer present. Last week, one of the young boys around 4 years old, starting naming his colors - he recognized and said ‘purple? His older brother read aloud for the first time, slowly and deliberately showing the pictures in the book to each child.”

Mardie Rhodes

Join this fantastic volunteer team today – go to http://bit.ly/ReadWithKids to learn more.

A record breaking United Way Day of Caring at LIHI

Day of Caring (DOC) is the largest one day mobilization of volunteers in King County sponsored by the United Way. On September 21, LIHI collaborated with seven incredible volunteer teams. 58 volunteers painted community spaces and weeded gardens helping LIHI preserve housing for homeless women, families, veterans, seniors and low income individuals. We’re so inspired by the energy & enthusiasm of Day of Caring volunteers from Microsoft, Washington Federal, Seattle University, Vulcan, AT&T and the Swedish Medical Group. Thank you for spending your Day of Caring with LIHI!

Big thanks also go out to twelve Safeco employees who volunteered at the Urban Rest Stop last June to celebrate Day with Liberty. Thank you for giving the URS a make-over.

New volunteer program helps residents gain a competitive edge in searching for employment

2012 marked an exciting new chapter for LIHI’s volunteer program. Thanks to a grant from City of Seattle’s Technology
LIHI volunteer Hope Shafer and resident Jamila accept City of Seattle Technology Grant

Matching Fund and the Solid Ground MLK AmeriCorps VISTA program LIHI was able to expand our pilot program offering homeless and low-income individuals opportunities to increase their employability and career advancement options through a highly individualized computer technology and job training program. Hope Shafer, who helped Jamila secure employment, said the following about her volunteer experience with LIHI: I love working with my students – they are so eager to learn. So far both of the residents I worked with acquired jobs during our collaboration. Volunteering with LIHI has been really meaningful - my help isn’t just giving back to the community, I am changing someone’s life.

Our goal for 2013 is to serve 60 residents. Help us reach this goal by becoming a volunteer today! Email volunteer@LIHI.org or call Sarah Tapp at 206-957-8067 to learn more.

Thank You to Our Wonderful Volunteers!
Thank You to LIHI’s Generous Donors!
We could not succeed without you.

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HOMES FOR VETS!

Vote in May to help LIHI win $250,000

www.LIHI.org

Make Your Donation to LIHI Go Further by Giving Big on May 15th!

GiveBig is a one-day, online charitable giving event hosted by the Seattle Foundation, celebrating the nonprofit organizations that make our region a healthier and more vital place to live. On May 15th, the Seattle Foundation will match a portion of your online contribution to LIHI.

On May 15th visit www.LIHI.org for direct link to donate to LIHI via GiveBig.

LIHI Gala and Auction

SAVE THE DATE!
LIHI Gala and Auction
Friday November 15th
Hyatt Olive 8