

Homes of Hope expanding in Upstate

By Angelia Davis

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Homes of Hope, a Greenville nonprofit organization, is taking its brand of affordable housing to other communities in the state.

The organization is venturing into Anderson, where it is building five rental units for now, and to Berkeley County, where it will build three single-family homes, according to Home of Home spokesman Jordon Weldon and Don Oglesby, the organization's president and chief executive officer.

The organization also will aid development in Spartanburg, Oglesby said.

Homes of Hope has provided housing for 324 families or individuals and job training and mentoring for 264 men overcoming addictions since its inception in 1998.

The organization was in-

vited to go into Anderson, Spartanburg and Berkeley counties to do what it has done in Greenville – help revive low-income neighborhoods and provide affordable housing, Oglesby said.

Oglesby said the organization isn't leaving Greenville and has no plans to open up new offices in other locations just yet.

But, "We are going to want to partner with agencies that do the services and provide that support for the families that we do here in Greenville so that we're not just building houses. Like our motto says, 'it's not just about houses, it's about lives.'"

Weldon said the organization still is committed to the Greenville community and is developing several sites in the West Greenville area. Six of those units include rental options.