

2017 Governor's Housing Conference

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Board President and Co-founder

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Partnerships of Possibility



- **Nashville Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities Housing Group:**
 - **The only organization in Nashville helping adults with an intellectual and/or developmental disability find affordable housing, gainful employment and a strong social network necessary for them to thrive**
 - **Carolyn Naifeh, Executive Director**
- **Urban Housing Solutions:**
 - **Nashville's leading non-profit provider of affordable housing providing new opportunities for people with unique housing needs and revitalizing and enhancing Nashville's neighborhoods**
 - **Rusty Lawrence, Executive Director**

Society experiencing a crisis

- 1.5 million persons on the Autism Spectrum in the USA
 - Currently 1 in 68 children in the US has an Autism Spectrum Disorder (compared to 1 in 150 in 2002)
 - 4.5 times more common in boys (1 in 42/Boys; 1 in 189/Girls)
 - 10% of children with ASD are also identified as having *Down syndrome*, *Fragile X*, and other genetic and chromosomal disorders
 - Nashville has approximately 1500 school-aged children (<22y) on the ASD spectrum
- 1 in 6 children in the USA has a developmental disability
- Employment? Housing? Societal integration? Life after parents' have died?

Friendship House

- Adults with an IDD live in close community with graduate students from Vanderbilt Divinity School and Peabody School of Education
- Together, the community:
 - Celebrates different abilities together
 - Eats a communal meal once a week
 - Engages in a spiritual practice once a week
- A model built on the L'Arche Communities founded by Fr. Jean Vanier

Two Friendship Houses

30 residents; 11 persons with an IDD



Funding the projects

- **First Friendship House (4 X 2br apartments, 4 X 1br apartments)**
 - \$983k project
 - Tennessee Housing Development Agency's (THDA) *Housing Trust Fund* (29%)
 - Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency's (MHDA) *Home Investment Partnership Program* (48%)
 - UHS Equity (23%)
- **Second Friendship House (20 X 1br apartments)**
 - \$1.46m project
 - THDA's *Housing Trust Fund* (34%)
 - UHS Equity (63%)
 - MDHA's *Community Development Block Grant* (3%)

Challenges

What is gained?

- **Our friend residents & their families:**
 - Living in their own affordable apartments for the first time
 - Working in life-giving employment (100% employed vs. 73% unemployed)
 - Building friendships across the ability/disability divide
 - Teaching graduate students about disabilities
 - Experiencing hope
- **Our student residents:**
 - Discovering persons with an IDD through an informal curriculum
 - Receiving affordable housing
 - Leaving Friendship House as a social change agents (advocates)
- **Our Housing Partner (UHS)**
 - Serving an underserved population
 - Partnering with another non-profit
- **Our city:**
 - Becoming a model for other cities
 - Stopping families from leaving Nashville/TN

Thank you!