



Media Alert

Willow Tree Apartments Opening Ceremony

What: Partners involved in the redevelopment of the Willow Tree Apartments, the only housing designed for homeless families in East County, will celebrate the opening of the brand new complex.

When: Wednesday, November 9, 2005 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Willow Tree Apartments, Community Room
311 NE Division St., Gresham

Background:

The Willow Tree Inn in Gresham, constructed 40 years ago as a nursing home, was converted to housing for homeless families in 1994 by the Housing Authority of Portland (HAP). Although providing much-needed housing for formerly homeless families for several years, the aging building's condition gradually deteriorated and no longer provided for their housing needs. In addition, its original design as a nursing home made it difficult to provide the privacy that families needed in order to stabilize their lives. In 2002, HAP initiated redevelopment and submitted the first application for funding assistance.

It took three years to accumulate \$1.7 million in capital funding from eight sources to build this housing. Two cities (Gresham and Portland), the county, the state, and the federal government all participated in the project. The new Willow Tree Apartments provide ten units for homeless families, with supportive services provided by Human Solutions, Inc., and seven units are available for families earning less than half of the area's median income.

Visuals at event:

Giant check donation. Human Solutions will be presented with a \$1,000 donation on behalf of all of the project partners.

Apartment and site tour. Guests will tour the site after the ceremony and see one of the units for homeless families.

Event speakers include:

Mayor Charles Becker, City of Gresham
Jean DeMaster, Executive Director, Human Solutions
Shar Giard, member, Board of Commissioners, Housing Authority of Portland
Steve Rudman, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Portland

Media Contact:

Shelley Marchesi, Housing Authority of Portland, 503-802-8427, cell: 503-502-2980,
email shelleym@hapdx.org.