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The Arc Mercy Community Opens Doors to New Affordable Homes for San Francisco Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Mercy Housing California and The Arc San Francisco partner to create a vibrant, service-enriched community with 17 homes for San Francisco residents with developmental disabilities.

San Francisco, CA—With only 44 apartments in San Francisco dedicated to adults with developmental disabilities, the San Francisco housing crisis is especially challenging for these residents that often live at or below the poverty level and struggle to find the support they need. Addressing the severely unmet need for adults with developmental disabilities, Mercy Housing California and The Arc San Francisco have partnered to develop The Arc Mercy Community at 1099 Masonic to create 17 service-enriched apartments in the city’s Haight-Ashbury neighborhood.

On Wednesday, October 25, Mercy Housing and The Arc San Francisco joined residents and neighborhood leaders in celebrating the completion of the property which included an adaptive re-use of a long-vacant building, originally built in 1905—reconfiguring the space into a healthy, vibrant and inclusive community with 17 private apartments and ground floor community spaces for tailored, comprehensive services provided by The Arc San Francisco. Additionally, the building received significant system updates including a required seismic upgrade to ensure the community would be a safe and stable home for residents for years to come.

Dedicated to the lifelong independence and success of those with autism, Down syndrome, and other intellectual disabilities, The Arc San Francisco has developed and operates the resident services at the property to provide independent living training and support to residents with developmental disabilities. “The Arc provides Residential Coaches who teach and support tenants in applying for housing, budgeting and paying bills, home cleaning, cooking and laundry and being a good neighbor,” says Jennifer Dresen, Chief of Wellness and Residential Services at The Arc San Francisco. “In addition, The Arc provides an on-site Residential Manager to address any issues, and also to facilitate regular group meetings for both social and educational purposes. With the right training and support, individuals with developmental disabilities can achieve the dream of leading full and independent lives while residing in San Francisco.”

“At a time of seemingly unconquerable odds, The Arc Mercy Community shows that we can make a difference in our community,” says Doug Shoemaker, President of Mercy Housing California. Mercy Housing has also partnered with The Arc San Francisco to provide services for 14 of the 67 units at Bill Sorro Community in the South of Market Area which opened earlier this year. “While there is still a lot of work ahead, the addition of these 17 units at The Arc Mercy Community and another 14 at Bill Sorro

Community—a total of 31 new affordable apartments committed to meeting the needs of low-income residents with developmental disabilities—is a huge step forward and we can all be proud of that.”

Funding for The Arc Mercy Community included the final allocation of the HUD 811 program as well as 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits and funds from the City & County of San Francisco and Bank of America Merrill Lynch. The development received unanimous neighbor support, including endorsement from the Haight Ashbury Improvement Association and the Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Council.

About Mercy Housing California

Mercy Housing California is the largest regional division of national nonprofit Mercy Housing, Inc. Mercy Housing, Inc. is headquartered in Denver and founded in 1981 with the mission to create stable, vibrant, and healthy communities by developing, financing and operating affordable, program-enriched housing for families, seniors and people with special needs who lack the economic resources to access quality, safe housing opportunities. To date, with a presence in 41 states and 200+ cities, Mercy Housing, Inc. has developed, preserved and financed more than 45,800 affordable homes nationwide, both rental and single family, serving more than 152,600 adults and children on any given day.

Mercy Housing California has developed over 140 rental properties across 36 California counties serving more than 18,000 low and very low-income residents; working poor families, senior citizens, persons who were formerly homeless, people with disabilities and persons living with HIV/AIDS. For more information about Mercy Housing, Inc. and Mercy Housing California, please visit mercyhousing.org.

About The Arc San Francisco

The Arc San Francisco is a lifelong learning and achievement center for over 800 individuals with developmental disabilities in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. For over 66 years, The Arc San Francisco has been widely recognized for innovation in continuing education and career programs as well as independent living services, health advocacy, and a broad range of arts and recreation opportunities. The Arc San Francisco supports individuals with autism, Down syndrome, and other disabilities to meet the challenges of adulthood while achieving personal goals and lifelong success. For more information visit <http://www.thearcsf.org>

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