



Press Release
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Women's Community Revitalization Project Breaks Ground on 36 New Affordable Townhomes

Affordable housing developer has partnered with Firm Hope Baptist Church to convert a vacant lot to productive use

PHILADELPHIA, PA – The Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP) and partner Firm Hope Baptist Church broke ground Friday on Grace Townhomes, a residential development that will bring 36 newly built townhomes to a blighted lot in Port Richmond and make them available to families as rental units with options for eventual ownership.

Upon completion the two, three and four bedroom homes will rent for between \$450 and \$650 per month, however final rents will depend on each individual applicant's financial situation. Each home will feature a variety of amenities including central air conditioning, washer/dryers and more.

"It's clear that working together we can change our communities," said Nora Lichtash, Executive Director of the Women's Community Revitalization Project. "We've taken an abandoned piece of land and will transform it. This time next year, families will replace blight and have the opportunity to live in beautiful homes they can afford. We could not be more excited about this development and what it means to Port Richmond."

The WCRP has been very active on the issue of equitable development and is among the founders of the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities (PCAC), a group of the city's leading community, disability, faith, labor, and urban agriculture organizations. Together, they have launched *Development without Displacement*, a campaign to expand and protect affordability in neighborhoods undergoing gentrification.

Firm Hope Baptist Church, a strong neighborhood anchor in the Port Richmond community for many years, is WCRP's partner on this project and is also a member of the Philadelphia Coalition for Affordable Communities.

"We've seen a lot in this neighborhood over the years, both good times and bad," said Richard Harris, Pastor at Firm Hope Baptist Church. "This is without a doubt a joyful moment for everyone. Not only will this new development encourage families to settle here permanently, we also believe it will lead to spinoff development and be a catalyst for Port Richmond's revival. It's humbling to be a part of it."

Construction is projected to take approximately one year to complete and the homes are expected to be move-in ready by the fall of 2016.

About WCRP

The Women's Community Revitalization Project (WCRP) is committed to social and economic equity for low-income women and their families, developing housing; providing supportive services, advocating for policy change and honoring leadership, dignity, and justice in our communities. Learn more at www.wcrpphila.org.

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