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Napa First United Methodist Church Selects Burbank Housing & Napa Valley Community Housing To Build Much Needed Workforce Housing in Downtown Napa *Initial phase involves fact finding and due diligence.*

July 10, 2023 – Recognizing the dire need for affordable workforce housing in the City of Napa, the Napa First United Methodist Church (NFUMC) is partnering with Burbank Housing and Napa Valley Community Housing to design and build a mixed-use workforce housing community on the NFUMC property. The property, located in the heart of downtown Napa at 625 Randolph Street, is near services, transit, jobs, schools, and parks making it a key opportunity site for workforce housing.

According to NFUMC's Pastor, Marylee Sheffer, “NFUMC believes housing is a basic human need. Without housing security, it is difficult for individuals to meet their other basic human needs. A roof over one’s head provides the stability and security needed to thrive, to raise a family, to work in local businesses, to ensure children can attend local schools and be part of our beautiful community.”

NFUMC gathered a team of individuals from the congregation, aptly named the Transformation Team, to oversee the project. Dave Whitmer, the Transformation Team Lead, expressed excitement in partnering with Burbank and NVCH. “Both Burbank and NVCH have extensive experience working in our local community. They bring with them decades of experience in building, managing and supporting workforce housing communities throughout Napa and Sonoma counties. We feel we have the best team possible to make something truly incredible happen in downtown Napa!”

The initial phase of the new community will involve fact-finding, due diligence, and conversations with the congregation and organizations which currently utilize the NFUMC facilities. The historic church sanctuary, known for its wonderful acoustics and Sunday services, will remain untouched.

The new community in downtown Napa is a testament to NFUMC's commitment to addressing the need for low-income housing in the area. Over 40 years ago, NFUMC recognized the need for low-income senior housing and, through the creation of the nonprofit Napa Housing Foundation, created and currently oversees the operation of Napa Creek Manor at 1300 Jefferson Street and also assisted in the creation of Jefferson Street Senior Housing at 3400 Jefferson Street.

As a community leader bringing much-needed workforce housing to Napa, NFUMC is excited to support our local government, businesses, the Napa Valley Unified School District, and the environment by providing housing opportunities for the local workforce in the downtown core. With affordable workforce housing nearby, workers will not have to commute long distances to jobs and their children will be able to attend local schools, helping to create a sense of community and belonging.

About Napa First United Methodist Church (NFUMC)

Established in 1852, NFUMC is one of the oldest churches in Napa County. Their hearts, doors and minds are open to ALL and their vision is to Follow Jesus; Thrive in community; and Heal the world through service with their neighbors.

They invite others to join by ministering to the homeless, uplifting the community's poor, providing support to those in need and volunteering in the community. NFUMC has come to find more grace in the search for understanding and more value in questioning, than in absolutes. Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at NFUMC! (<https://napamethodist.org/>)

About Burbank Housing (Burbank)

As the North Bay's nonprofit leader in affordable housing, Burbank Housing has spent 43 years building and maintaining high-quality rental and homeownership communities that help their residents to thrive in the face of challenges. Burbank builds welcoming, comfortable neighborhoods for people to call home.

Today, Burbank enjoys a successful track record as a leader in the creation and management of quality, sustainable housing, strong partnerships, and a healthy balance sheet – all of which positions Burbank to be flexible and forward-thinking in meeting the needs of their residents and homebuyers. (www.burbankhousing.org)

About Napa Valley Community Housing (NVCH)

For nearly half a century, NVCH has developed, acquired and rehabilitated over 900 apartments and homes in Napa County. As a result, NVCH supplies safe, attractive, clean and affordable homes and provides the foundation of health and well-being for Napa County's citizens. NVCH currently manages 24 properties throughout Napa Valley and provides homes for 1700+ children, families, individuals, agricultural workers, veterans and seniors. Additionally, NVCH's Home Sharing program matches Home Providers with Home Seekers. (www.nvch.org.)

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