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Studios at Montero Celebrates Grand Opening, Welcomes New Residents

Petaluma Homekey project adds 60 units of permanent supportive housing to the area

Petaluma, CA – July 13, 2023 – Representatives from the City of Petaluma, Burbank Housing, Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) and the County of Sonoma gathered Thursday afternoon to cut the ribbon and signal the opening of Studios at Montero, the county’s newest and largest permanent supportive housing (PSH) endeavor to-date. The project cost a total of \$18.3 million, with major contributions of \$15.1 million in State of California funding through its Project Homekey program, \$1.7 million from the City of Petaluma, \$1.5 million from Providence Health, and a \$25,000 grant from Wells Fargo. Rehab construction at the former America’s Best Value Inn at 5135 Montero Way began in earnest last October, and eight months later the largest PSH project in Sonoma County opened its doors, offering homes and supportive services to those identified by the County as chronically homeless.

Owned and operated by Burbank Housing, the Studios at Montero marks the first PSH partnership between Burbank Housing and the City of Petaluma, and is part of the City’s strategy to comprehensively address homelessness.

"Petaluma's Strategic Plan to End Homelessness is clear that those who have experienced chronic homelessness need more than a key to a house: they need ongoing support and a sense of belonging within our community," said Peggy Flynn, Petaluma City Manager. "Permanent Supportive Housing projects like Studios at Montero can provide both, and we are so excited for the partnership with Burbank Housing and COTS that is making these 60 units possible in Petaluma. We're also grateful to the County of Sonoma, which provided 60 Project Based Vouchers to subsidize the residents' rent and ensure their economic stability for the long term."

"We estimate that this project will reduce Petaluma's population of chronically homeless individuals by around 20% in the first year," said Flynn. "It is our hope that Studios at Montero can be a model for future projects, not just here in Sonoma County, but throughout California."

Burbank Housing’s CEO Larry Florin expressed excitement that a new chapter for Studios of Montero had begun, noting his appreciation for the partnerships needed to make today a reality. "Homelessness is an issue that is touching all communities throughout Sonoma County," said Florin. "A project of this scale speaks volumes about the seriousness Burbank and its partners are willing to bring to bear to tackle homelessness not just in Petaluma, but county-wide. Burbank Housing is appreciative to the State of California, the County of Sonoma, the City of Petaluma and Providence Health for this partnership opportunity to leverage Burbank’s decades of experience in creating safe, sustainable, and affordable housing for people in our community."



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The County of Sonoma’s partnership was also instrumental in bringing the project to life, providing 60 project-based vouchers from the County Housing Authority. The vouchers will cover costs for on-site support services and subsidize a portion of the resident’s monthly rent. “Collaboration is the way things get done, and the Studios at Montero project is a great example of intergovernmental, multi-jurisdictional, cross-sector partnerships working together to provide relief to some of our most vulnerable community members,” said Sonoma County Supervisor David Rabbitt, who represents Petaluma.

The new residents of Studios at Montero will have access to wraparound house-based supportive services and case management provided by local Petaluma-based nonprofit Committee on the Shelterless (COTS). “COTS is proud of our partnership in supporting tenants and the community at Studios at Montero,” noted Chris Cabral, COTS CEO. “Our team is thrilled to welcome tenants into their new homes and honored to provide supportive services to those transitioning from homelessness into permanent housing. Studios at Montero is an incredible addition to the Petaluma community—developments like this help us ensure everyone has a place to call home.”

Started in 2020 as Project Roomkey, the State of California’s Homekey program provides funding to local public entities and nonprofit housing organizations to “convert commercial properties and other existing buildings to Permanent or Interim Housing”. Studios at Montero is one of nine projects county-wide that has received Homekey funding, and is one of five Homekey projects Burbank Housing has been involved with to-date.

About Burbank Housing

Burbank Housing is the North Bay’s leading affordable housing nonprofit. Since 1980, the organization has built, preserved, and managed safe, affordable rental and for-sale homes in the North Bay. It currently provides homes to over 8,700 people across more than 103 communities and has built over 1,000 ownership homes. Burbank Housing also has more than 1,000 affordable housing units in the construction and predevelopment stages.

