



Fellowship Square

\$26 Mil. Renovation of 1970s-Era Reston Apartment Community Modernizes Local Affordable Housing Options for Low-Income Seniors

July 21 ribbon-cutting to debut Fellowship Square's upgraded Hunters Woods Fellowship House, home to 300+ seniors who are able to live independently on fixed-incomes of \$10,000/year amid rising housing costs in region.

July 12, 2022 – Reston, Va. – The recently completed \$26 mil. renovation to Fellowship Square's Hunters Woods Fellowship House dramatically modernized the nearly 50-year-old apartment building that provides affordable housing to 300+ older adults (aged 62 and older) who live on extremely limited fixed incomes of approximately \$10,000 per year. The renovation of the 225-unit property, to be debuted at a July 21 ribbon-cutting, ensures that [Fellowship Square](#) can help address Northern Virginia's lack of [affordable housing for seniors](#) well into the future.

"Here in Northern Virginia, we have nowhere near the level of affordable housing that is needed. This is especially true for low-income seniors. Coupled with skyrocketing real-estate and rental prices in our region, a growing number of older adults lack the means to afford housing and struggle to remain near their families, friends, and familiar neighborhoods. This trend will only grow worse as our population ages. Hunters Woods Fellowship House has provided housing to hundreds of vulnerable seniors in our region since it opened its doors in 1979. With this completed renovation, we can continue to offer quality apartment living at rental rates they can afford well into the future and enable our residents to live independently in the dynamic Reston community," said Christy Zeitz, CEO of Fellowship Square.

Public Safety Planning & Creative Scheduling Enabled Completion Amid Pandemic

The renovation project broke ground in mid-February 2020 and was almost entirely conducted amid the COVID-19 pandemic and its ensuing challenges.

"Following an initial halt in March 2020, we were able to proceed with the renovation by adopting aggressive precautionary measures, action planning with public safety and disease control experts, and creative work team scheduling with our builder so that necessary repairs and renovations could be put in place to improve the long-term quality of our building and the quality of life for our residents, while keeping our community safe and protected," said Fellowship Square's Christy Zeitz.

The upgrades to the property, originally built in 1979, proceeded in two phases. The first focused on the infrastructure and "behind the walls" work such as modernizing heating and cooling systems and improving energy efficiencies. Phase 2 focused on upgrading the communal areas where residents gather and socialize - spaces that are a crucial component of quality senior housing as they help foster social connections and battle the isolation that plagues many older adults, which negatively impacts their health and quality of life. This included an expanded lobby and entrance with indoor/outdoor seating, the addition of a media and wellness center; and the creation of flex space that allows for small group activities simultaneously or large community functions. Additionally, 12 apartments were reconfigured into ADA accessible units for residents with disabilities.

July 21 Ribbon-Cutting and Tours to Debut Modernized Property

A community ribbon-cutting will debut the renovated building and grounds at 10:30 AM on Thursday, July 21, with tours of the property (2231 Colts Neck Road, Reston) and remarks from elected officials, Fellowship Square leadership, Hunters Woods residents, and the renovation team of Miner Feinstein Architects, and Southway Builders.

Northern Virginia Aging Trends and Housing Needs

There is a nationwide groundswell of seniors, as the baby boomers age and longevity increases. Northern Virginia's population of adults age 65+ [grew more rapidly](#) than the rest of the U.S. population in each of the last three decades, and this trend will continue – particularly in Fairfax County, which according to the [Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia](#), will continue to have a majority of the region's older population over the decades ahead. The reduced economic means and disabilities associated with aging make it difficult for many older persons to obtain and afford living arrangements appropriate to their needs and circumstances. This is especially true in Northern Virginia where housing costs are highest.

“Hunters Woods Fellowship House has been an integral part of our community for decades, providing much needed affordable housing for our older adults,” said Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn. “Preserving our affordable housing units, while also adding much needed additional units is a top priority of mine for Hunter Mill District. This renovation, including additional accessibility and other modernizations, preserves this landmark and ensures its residents will continue to be able to call it home.”

About Fellowship Square

Fellowship Square, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is one of the leading local providers of affordable housing and services to low-income seniors, owning 670 units (240 of them jointly) and serving more than 800 older adults. Through HUD funding and vouchers, residents of Fellowship Houses – many who live on Social Security or Supplemental Security Income alone, with an average annual fixed-income of \$10,000/year – pay no more than 30 percent of their income toward their housing costs, including rent and a utility allowance. Through professionally managed apartment communities, programming, and services, Fellowship Square ensures that residents have the support they need to live independent and fulfilling lives even in the face of serious obstacles, such as the high costs of housing in the greater Washington DC area. For more information on Fellowship Square housing options, volunteer opportunities or donations, visit fellowshipsquare.org, call 703.860.2536 or email info@fellowshipsquare.org.

###

Media contact:

[Shelley Ducker](#) 202.255.0561 or sduckercommunications@gmail.com

Photos to be provided following the July 21st ribbon cutting event.