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**For Immediate Release**

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### **The Elwood Brings Much-Needed Supportive Housing to Clark County Forty-six apartment homes for people exiting homelessness, a multi-agency success**

The Elwood located at 6317 NE Fourth Plain Boulevard in Vancouver, is open for its new tenants. The Housing Initiative, LLC, a mission driven affordable housing development subsidiary of the Council for the Homeless, is the developer. The Elwood is the second completed housing project of the Housing Initiative. All tenants have been identified and will receive rent assistance and supportive services through partner agencies.

#### **Serving a vulnerable population**

“People experiencing chronic homelessness are the most vulnerable in our community,” shares Housing Initiative CEO, Sierk Braam. “The Elwood apartment homes will improve every aspect of their health and well-being, especially during the COVID pandemic. The entire community benefits when community members have a place to call home.” Designed to be a welcoming and supportive environment, The Elwood features the following:

- Forty-six, 400 square foot, one bedroom garden-style apartments
- Comprehensive Supportive services with Vancouver Housing Authority providing service coordination; Sea Mar - Community Services Northwest providing intensive case management; and CDM Caregiving services providing assistance with daily living activities such as cooking, cleaning, and personal hygiene.
- Rent assistance from the Vancouver Housing Authority so that rents are based off a percentage of the tenant’s income making the apartments affordable to those with low or no income.
- Community room, laundry room, bike and car parking, outdoor courtyard, and community garden
- Close proximity to necessities such as grocery stores and public transportation

#### **Partnerships key to Success and Financing**

The Elwood was financed through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, Clark County, and the City of Vancouver Affordable Housing Fund. Senator Maria Cantwell states, “Every Washingtonian knows we have a crisis in the lack of affordable housing, and that’s why I am so glad to see 46 new units becoming available in Vancouver with funding from the local community and the Low Income Housing Tax Credit. Projects like The Elwood are why I have

worked so hard to increase the Low Income Housing Tax Credit and why I will continue working with my colleagues this Congress to secure even more funding to help our communities build more homes.”

**Key partners:**

- Access Architecture: Building design
- CDM Services: Personal care services for tenants
- City of Vancouver Affordable Housing Fund: Funding
- Clark County: Funding
- Hunt Capital Partners: Tax credit syndicator
- Otak, Inc.: Civil engineering
- Sea Mar – Community Services Northwest: Case management
- TEAM Construction: Contractor
- Vancouver Housing Authority: Service coordination, rental assistance, development consultant
- Washington State Finance Commission: Awarded tax credits

**Take a video tour of The Elwood at**

<https://www.councilforthehomeless.org/homelessness/the-elwood-opens-to-change-lives/>

**About Council for the Homeless and the Housing Initiative, LLC**

Council for the Homeless is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide community leadership, compelling advocacy, and practical solutions to prevent and end homelessness in Clark County, WA. In 2016, Council for the Homeless created the Housing Initiative, LLC to increase the community’s capacity to develop housing for those with the highest barriers to renting in the private market.

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