



Hope Spring Village - Officially Celebrates the Opening of The Friendship Houses of Durham on September 22, 2013

Hope Spring Village, Duke Divinity School and Reality Ministries are proud to announce the official Ribbon Cutting and opening of the Friendship Houses of Durham. The ceremony was held on September 22, 2013 at 3:30 pm. The event took place at the site of the Friendship Houses located at 304 & 306 Northwood Circle in Durham. Located in the North Street community of Durham, these homes are the first of what is hoped will be many more houses to be built in North Carolina.

HopeSpring Village was formed in 2012. Its purpose is to identify and support, or create independent living communities in the Triangle area of North Carolina for individuals with special needs. HopeSpring's goal is to provide housing, education, vocational training, social and spiritual programs set in the community—with the ultimate objective of having each person grow and become as independent as possible. By nurturing personal independence in a vibrant community setting, HopeSpring Village will seek to support those life experiences that bolster confidence, develop life skills, and provide opportunities for employment.

The Friendship Houses of Durham opened in August and were made possible through the collaboration of HopeSpring Village, Reality Ministries of Durham and the Duke Divinity School. The Friendship House Model addresses the needs of its constituencies by inviting divinity and other graduate students to live in community with persons with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). While this meets the primary need of safe, affordable housing for both groups, it meets another important unaddressed need. These graduates will be community leaders wherever they serve throughout the world. They will benefit from the experience of learning from their gifted roommates with an I/DD. Living in Friendship House will equip them with the skills and vision for creating communities more inclusive of persons with disabilities. Everyone benefits and grows through the experience.

Another important component of the Friendship Houses will be the support provided by Reality Ministries of Durham. The primary focus of their staff and volunteers is on creating opportunities for teens and adults with and without developmental disabilities to experience belonging, kinship and growth within a Christian setting, as well as the larger community.

Many thanks to everyone that helped build the Foundation and "Raise the Roofs" on these homes.

Ever Grateful,

The HopeSpring Village Board of Directors



Background

A national study in 2010 by The ARC, the nation's leading advocacy and service organization for persons with an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD), found that most adults with I/DD still lived in their parents' home. There is simply not enough safe, affordable and community-oriented housing.

That same year, a group of interested parents from the Triangle Area came together to better understand the options available for people with I/DD here in the Raleigh / Durham area. Over a period of 24 months, this group of individuals spent considerable time and their personal resources to evaluate a variety of housing models. They looked locally and elsewhere to identify choices that aligned with their vision and dreams of appropriate housing in the community for their adult children with I/DD.

Their findings were not all that different from those of The ARC. None of the programs met what these parents and their adult children were seeking. Add to that the disconcerting fact that the cost for these programs ranged from \$38,000 - \$80,000 annually; with most programs heavily reliant upon significant funding from public sources. Several of the directors at these residential programs made it clear that if the public funding was to disappear so would their programs.

The team agreed there was more work to be done and in 2012 the decision was made to create a new 501(c)(3) charity...HopeSpring Village was formed.

Our Vision

To Create an Organization that Provides Housing Options for Adults with I/DD

These Options Must Be:

- Flexible enough to serve most individuals seeking to live independently
- Community Based, affordable, and ideally-- sustainable, with minimal if any reliance on public funding.
- Ultimately replicable, with the option to be adjusted to meet the needs of those with different levels of ability

The first of what is hoped to be many more HopeSpring Village Houses opened in August of 2013.

**Having identified a model that is believed to be replicable, flexible and affordable...
...Plans are to have the next HopeSpring Village residence open in 3 years.**

To Learn More about Our Organization, Visit Us at www.hopespringvillage.com