

For more information:

Media Inquiries: Ela Kubok, ekubok@hacsa.us, 541-682-2506

HACSA: Jacob Fox, jfox@hacsa.us, 541-682-2527

Sponsors, Inc.: Paul Solomon, pjsolomon@sponsorsinc.org, 541-505-5652



Partnerships in Action: The Oaks at 14th Grand Opening Celebrating Sponsors, Inc., HACSA, and New Beginnings

Lane County's newest affordable housing complex may also be its most innovative, thanks to a unique collaboration between Sponsors, Inc. and the Housing and Community Services Agency (HACSA). The project is unique nationally, and demonstrates the effectiveness of strategic alliances formed to solve community and human needs.

The Oaks at 14th is a six-building, 54-unit housing complex that offers long-term, affordable, permanent housing for people who have previously been incarcerated and are at risk of homelessness. To be eligible, residents must have successfully graduated from transitional housing programs with Sponsors Inc. Residents will include veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities. Residents began moving in this April.

Sponsors and HACSA are opening the doors to the brand new complex, holding a Grand Opening and Open House on Monday, May 22 at 11am at 1420 Oak Patch Rd. The event is open to the public.

HACSA and Sponsors are eager to share the results of this innovative project to provide stable, affordable housing with wrap-around services. In this case, support services -- including employment services, cognitive behavioral programs, and services designed to support the long term success of people with criminal histories, will be available on-site for residents. Additionally, Parole and Probation services will be provided on-site.

"This is a remarkable project – one that shows what our community is capable of, thanks to the ingenuity of organizations like Sponsors," explains Jacob Fox, Executive Director of HACSA. "Stable housing is critical to the success of each person who returns to our community having completed a sentence, and the Sponsors-HACSA partnership really shows how we can help with re-entry and long-term success. That's a win for everyone – the residents, their families and the community."

The call for what would become The Oaks at 14th was visionary, but before it could become reality, HACSA had to secure funding, coordinate the planning and design, work with the City for permits, and oversee the development. The process took over three years.

The fact that it happened at all is remarkable; it required the participation of many. Specifically, Sponsors and HACSA credit the success to the help of a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) that helped guide the project and provided information and education about the project. The CAC included neighbors, elected officials, and neighborhood organization representatives, as well as Eugene Police Department and Lane County Parole and Probation representatives. The Churchill Area Neighbors Association participated as well, and was instrumental in keeping lines of communication open.

The project was also supported through the time and contributions of others, including: Oregon Housing and Community Services Agency (OHCS), US Bank, Lane County Justice Reinvestment funding, a Meyer Memorial Trust grant and a City of Eugene System Development Charge waiver.

"This amazing project will have an enormous impact on the lives of many Lane County residents. Using evidence based interventions and our 40+ year history of serving people with criminal histories, the Oaks at 14th will be a national model for reducing homelessness and recidivism," said Paul Solomon, Executive Director of Sponsors.

About Sponsors: Sponsors is nationally recognized as a model utilizing best practices in reentry services. Sponsors is a non-profit that provides housing and a range of services designed to reduce recidivism for men and women reentering Lane County from jail or prison. Sponsors operates 19 buildings on seven sites with 200 beds of transitional and permanent housing and has been providing reentry services in Lane County since 1973.

About HACSA: The Oaks at 14th was funded, developed and managed by HACSA, which is devoted to providing affordable housing people from all walks of life – all of whom will be most successful with stable housing. In addition to administering housing vouchers for HUD, HACSA develops and manages affordable housing across Lane County. Through its spectrum of options, it houses over 4500 households each month.