

RENEWAL

A POAH CHICAGO NEWSLETTER



Building Dedication Honors Mattie Butler

Twenty-five plus years after Mattie Butler developed the Johnson and Butler-Linden Apartments in East Woodlawn to help low-income residents find safe, affordable housing in the changing community, POAH has renamed the buildings in her honor.

The dedication of the Mattie Butler Apartments, with buildings at 6146 South Kenwood and 6230 South Dorchester, coincided with the completion their full exterior and interior renewal.

"Mattie Butler is a force of nature," said Bill Eager, Senior Vice President, POAH Midwest. "Legendary in her commitment and accomplishment, she has led this community's fight to ensure access to great housing, jobs, transportation and schools for decades. In honor of Mattie Butler's and POAH's shared commitment to the ongoing preservation and expansion of affordable housing opportunities for the residents of Woodlawn, we're proud to enshrine Mattie's name on these two apartment buildings."

POAH acquired the two properties, consisting of 106 apartments from the Woodlawn East Community and Neighbors (WECAN) in 2017 with the understanding that POAH would renovate and preserve their affordability for the long term. In addition to assuming ownership, POAH installed its affiliate, POAH Communities LLC, as property manager.

POAH modernized both buildings after receiving Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the Illinois Housing Development Authority and financial support from the City of Chicago and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago. Thanks to POAH's extensive experience with "rehab-in place" construction it completed the work safely without having to re-locate residents or interrupt supportive services, even during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. POAH's renovations to each of the buildings' units include new high-efficient mechanical systems and the updating of community rooms, and kitchens. POAH is also continuing social and behavioral services for residents of the Mattie Butler Apartments, including hiring a full-time community impact coordinator. The goal is to ensure that its residents are successful and stable in POAH's housing over the long term.

"I am extremely proud to have my name on these buildings and for my strong relationship with POAH," said Mattie. "With all the new development in Woodlawn, the need to preserve and expand affordable housing is more urgent than ever, and POAH continues to rise to the challenge."

