

MERCY MAGNUSON PLACE TO OPEN THIS SUMMER

By Alyssa Campbell



Construction of Mercy Magnuson Place is expected to finish in July 2019.

After sitting vacant and deteriorating for 20 years, the former US Naval Barracks at Magnuson Park is poised to take on a new life and a special purpose in our commu-

nity this spring. Thanks to the dedicated work of Mercy Housing Northwest (MHNW), Mercy Magnuson Place will open its doors to individuals and families in need of affordable housing and a vibrant community that provides access and support for residents. Based on a proven family program model, Mercy Magnuson Place will offer services and programs designed to improve housing stability, health outcomes, educational results, financial well-being, and community engagement.

MHNW was excited to connect with Seattle Children's Hospital, the University of Washington and other local Seattle organizations to ensure that their employees have an opportunity to call Mercy Magnuson Place their home, and to live and work in the same community. Upon completion, Mercy Magnuson Place will include 148 new, energy-efficient units that will be available via an application process to households earning no more than 60% of area median income which is about \$64,000 per year for a family of four in Seattle. 52% of these units are 2- and 3-bedroom apartments.

Mercy Housing's mission extends well beyond providing safe, affordable housing to focus on a bigger goal. Access to opportunity for residents requires an investment in community, which is why Mercy Magnuson Place partners with local non-profits to provide top-notch resident services. Denise Louie Education Center will operate a six-classroom early learning center giving children and parents the benefit of onsite childcare, and a primary health clinic operated by Neighborcare Health will offer onsite preventative care and health education to families. The newly restored Nomi B Community Room (named to honor the mother of Dan Brettler, who along with wife Cindy were significant contributors to Mercy Magnuson Place) will host Out-of-School Time programs, financial well-being workshops, health and wellness classes, and a variety of community events and activities for residents. Two full-service staff members will also be available for resident support.

With access to open space, playgrounds, sports fields, and nature, Magnuson Park is an ideal setting to establish a housing community, but restoring the historical naval

barracks was a complicated assignment for Senior Project Developer Alisa Lubber and her team. "Historical preservation presents a unique challenge," she explains. "Fixing existing issues while preserving the integrity of a building can be costly and time-consuming." After nearly two decades of vacancy, the barracks presented more than a few hurdles for the project team to overcome. Their contractor hauled over 100 tractor trailer loads of debris from the site and contended with issues of mold, water damage, rot, mushrooms, and lead paint. Despite the inherent challenges associated with the renovation, Mercy Magnuson Place is now a healthy, dynamic housing environment scheduled for completion in July 2019 with a grand opening event slated for August 10. Alisa attributes the success of this project to good partners, an experienced team, the right priorities, and a focus on creating community.

For more information about Mercy Magnuson Place, contact Connie Tran at ctran@mercyhousing.org or visit www.mercyhousing.org/Northwest/mercy-magnuson-place. If interested in leasing an apartment home at Mercy Magnuson Place, contact (206) 686-1424.

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Senior Project Developer Alisa Lubber leads a tour of Mercy Magnuson Place.

Volunteer Opportunities for Community Members

- **Homework Club Volunteers** to help with after-school program activities such as tutoring and reading to kids
- **Family Night Assistants** to help with activities and to serve food at monthly family nights
- **Mentors** to assist high school students in achieving personal and academic goals
- **College Bound Program Volunteers** to accompany students on field trips to colleges, trade schools and universities and provide guidance with college applications, scholarships, etc.
- **Event Volunteers** for community activities including a welcome event and back-to-school event on August 26

- **Guest Chefs** for monthly cooking/canning demonstrations

If interested in volunteering, please contact Vy Le at vy@mercyhousing.org.

Don't have extra time to give? Mercy Housing's "New Backpack, Fresh Start" campaign will be going on through mid-August. With new families moving in to Mercy Magnuson Place this spring, community members can help by donating new backpacks and school supplies to help parents who face the challenge of stretching their budget for school supplies. For a list of supplies that our kids need, visit www.mercyhousing.org/northwest/partner. Contact Tereasa Palmer at tpalmer@mercyhousing.org to learn more.



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