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**REACH Receives \$500,000 from Meyer Memorial Trust
To Build 57 Affordable Homes in Washington County**

Nonprofit to build first "Passive House" multi-family project in Oregon

PORTLAND, Ore – January 7, 2013 - [REACH Community Development](http://reachcdc.org) has received a \$500,000 award from the Meyer Memorial Trust to build phase one of The Orchards at Orenco, a 57-unit affordable apartment community in Hillsboro, Oregon. The apartments, located near the Orenco MAX station, will be built using Passive House energy efficient standards, a method of construction that reduces energy usage and heating bills up to 90%.

As Hillsboro's population outpaces the housing supply and a rental housing shortage becomes more likely, REACH is addressing demand by building The Orchards at Orenco, a three phase, 150-unit development with rents affordable to residents earning approximately 50% of Median Family Income (MFI), or \$25,000 for a single-person household. The Orchards at Orenco will be one of the first multi-family projects in the United States built to "Passive House" standards. Passive House standards reduce heating and cooling requirements, while simultaneously creating excellent indoor air quality. These standards support REACH's efforts to incorporate green, sustainable building measures which create healthy living environments while providing the residents long-term cost savings. The award compliments REACH's recent designation by NeighborWorks® America as a 'Green Program' organization.

"We're very pleased to have awarded REACH \$500,000 to develop one of the first affordable housing projects at Orenco Station in Hillsboro," says Doug Stamm, Meyer Memorial Trust CEO. "With the current economic growth occurring in Washington County, it's important that organizations like REACH take a comprehensive approach to building affordable, safe, and attractive homes for our expanding workforce."

"REACH is excited to begin developing affordable, energy efficient homes in Washington County, enabling us to address the growth of companies like Intel and Kaiser Permanente," says Kathy Kniep, Interim Executive Director. "The location will allow working families and individuals with modest incomes to enjoy a quality living environment at an affordable rate."

Construction on Phase I is projected to begin in fall 2013. For updates on the Orchards at Orenco project, please visit <http://reachcdc.org/about-us/projects-in-the-pipeline/>



A healthy community begins at home

About REACH CDC

For 30 years, REACH has built innovative and affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in the metropolitan region. REACH develops and manages affordable housing and provides supportive services to our residents, as well as free home repairs to senior homeowners. Today, REACH's portfolio includes 1,607 units including single family homes, apartment buildings and mixed-use developments located across the City of Portland. REACH has won numerous state and national awards for its creative approach to building healthy communities and its innovative housing projects. More information available at <http://reachcdc.org>.

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