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**REACH Receives the Portland Business Journal's  
Better Bricks Sustainable Project of the Year Award**

*Orchards at Orenco is the largest multi-family Passive House building in North America*

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – June 4, 2015 - Today, REACH's Orchards at Orenco development received the Portland Business Journal's Better Bricks Sustainable Project of the Year award. The Portland Business Journal and Real Estate Inc.'s annual Better Bricks Awards honor the top professionals and projects in the Portland metro region's commercial real estate scene. The annual awards showcase individuals and projects that are on the leading edge in design, function and impact on the regional development landscape.

Orchards at Orenco is the largest multi-family building built to Passive House energy standards in North America. Tenants will receive unprecedented savings on their energy bills, achieving nearly 90% energy reduction for heat usage and 60-70% for overall energy use as compared to a LEED Certified building. Orchards at Orenco is also bringing affordable, sustainable living to low-income workers. The beneficiaries include households earning incomes of 50% Median Family Income (MFI) or less, or \$36,750 for a family of four. Rents at the 57-unit Phase I building will range from \$611-\$733/month. Eight of the 57 units will have project-based Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 8 vouchers and will be targeted to households earning 30% MFI or less, or \$20,820 for a family of four. Passive House has typically been reserved for middle and high income earners. Orchards will be one of the first to offer the benefits and savings to low-income individuals.

Some key innovative features include:

- The roof has 12 inches of insulation, which is approximately quadruple the amount required by code. The light color reflects solar radiation and helps moderate the building's temperature.
- The building is positioned with shading devices that allow winter sun but block it in the summer.
- The building contains a "heat recovery ventilator," which uses stale air from kitchens and bathrooms (that would otherwise be wasted) to warm fresh incoming air supplied to bedrooms.
- PVC-fiberglass hybrid windows throughout have argon-filled triple glazing and are designed to close tighter than most common models.

- Walls have 10-inch stud cavities, compared to six-inch stud cavities in typical buildings.
- The building rests on a super-insulated envelope of four inches of foam under the ground floor slab.

REACH assembled a Portland-based team of design, development and construction firms including Walsh Construction Co. (general contractor); Ankrom Moisan Architects (architects of record); William Wilson Architects (architect of design); Housing Development Center (construction manager); Green Hammer, Inc. (Passive House consultants); Housing Authority of Washington County (limited partner); and PHIUS (Passive House Institute of the United States). The \$14.5 million project is financed with funding from Wells Fargo, the Community Housing Fund, Meyer Memorial Trust, Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (NOAH), Oregon Housing and Community Services, NeighborWorks® America, and the Washington County Office of Community Development.

"This award is an outstanding achievement for REACH and our development team," says CEO Dan Valliere. "A project of this magnitude has never been accomplished anywhere in North America. Our team brought innovation and new thinking every day to the table. It's a testament to the vision and hard work of REACH and all of our partners."

### **About REACH CDC**

For 33 years, REACH has built innovative and affordable housing for low-income families and individuals in the Portland 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 1,892 units including single family homes, apartment buildings, and mixed-use developments located across the region. REACH has won numerous state and national awards for its creative approach to building healthy communities and its innovative housing projects. More information at <http://reachcdc.org>.