



A healthy community begins at home

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**REACH Breaks Ground on Largest Multi-Family
Passive House Building in United States**

The Orchards at Orenco brings 57 affordable sustainable homes to Hillsboro

PORTLAND, Ore. –June 10, 2014 — Next week, REACH CDC officially breaks ground on the largest multi-family Passive House project in the United States, the Orchards at Orenco Phase I, bringing affordable sustainable living to Orenco Station in Hillsboro, Oregon. Groundbreaking festivities will take place on **Tuesday, June 17th at 10:30 am at 6520 NE Cherry Dr., Hillsboro**. Keynote speaker Hillsboro Council President Aron Carleson will kick off the celebration.

The Orchards emphasizes REACH's goals of providing a comprehensive model of affordable living, using transit-oriented design and green building technology. With its proximity to light rail and multiple community amenities, the Orchards addresses REACH's strategy of connecting people to economic growth hubs. As Hillsboro's population outpaces the housing supply, there is a growing shortage of rental housing affordable to people earning entry-level or below average wages. REACH is addressing this demand by building the Orchards at Orenco, a three-phase development with rents affordable to residents earning approximately 50% of area Median Family Income (MFI), or approximately \$30,000 for a single-person household. Rents at the 57-unit Phase I building will range from \$611-\$733/month.

Designed by Ankrom Moisan Architects and William Wilson Architects and being built by Walsh Construction Co., the Orchards will be constructed to Passive House standards, reducing energy costs for tenants by approximately ninety percent. Some of the key features include triple-paned windows, a heat recovery system, and a super-insulated building envelope. 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. Construction will take approximately twelve months to complete.

"The location of the Orchards, near MAX in the heart of where jobs are growing means it could significantly reduce transportation costs for residents," says CEO Dan Valliere. "This is particularly critical in suburban communities where transportation consumes a larger



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share of the household budget. We're thrilled to be building in Hillsboro to Passive House energy efficient standards which also improves the affordability for residents."

About REACH CDC

For 32 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 1,852 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>.