



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Affordable Housing and Head Start Classrooms coming to Dundee

Newberg –A lack of affordable housing and childcare are two facts of life for low-income Dundee area families that have inspired a local church to provide their property to serve neighbors. People working in the hospitality and agricultural industries (waiters, cooks, vineyard crews, tasting room servers) typically accept substandard, crowded living conditions and have few opportunities for safe, affordable childcare. A one-of-a-kind project is beginning to take hold in Dundee to address these concerns.

Dundee Commons is an innovative project connecting three local non-profits to provide desperately needed affordable housing and early learning programming in Dundee. Newberg First United Methodist Church brings the land in Dundee; Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity brings their proven ability to work with qualified low-income families to build and own safe, affordable housing; and Head Start of Yamhill County provides comprehensive early learning programs for low-income children and their families. Together they will develop a three-story building in downtown Dundee with two Head Start classrooms on the first floor to support 30-50 children with free preschool and family services; and four 3-bedroom homes that will be sold to qualifying families partnering with Habitat.

In 2020, Newberg First United Methodist Church was offered an opportunity to steward historically-valued land in Dundee. The congregation began dreaming of how to preserve the existing house of worship while using other portions of the campus for the community's benefit. The United Methodist Church, who cares deeply about the local housing and childcare crises, was thrilled to find partnerships with Habitat and Head Start.

Scott Edwards Architecture has provided renderings of the building, playground, and updated parking area that harmonize architectural design with the Dundee community character. The project has an estimated \$4.5M cost, which will be covered by a variety of grants and local fundraising. Contact DundeeCommons@gmail.com to support this effort.

12/02/2024