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**BETHLEHEM HAVEN, PITTSBURGH MERCY, & ACTION-HOUSING
BREAK GROUND ON UPTOWN FLATS**

New \$22.8M development in Uptown Pittsburgh will expand access to safe, affordable housing & wrap-around services for 34 households

PITTSBURGH (October 2, 2024) – [Bethlehem Haven](#), part of [Pittsburgh Mercy](#)'s award-winning homeless services continuum of care, and [ACTION-Housing](#) broke ground today on the **Uptown Flats**, a new \$22.8 million low-income affordable housing development in the 1400 block of Fifth Avenue in Uptown Pittsburgh. Abatement is under way with demolition scheduled to begin in mid-October. Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2025. When completed in 2026, the new development located at Fifth Avenue and Stevenson Street will house up to 34 households whose residents are exiting homelessness, have accessibility needs, and are on the path to self-sufficiency.

Uptown Flats is the result of an innovative partnership between Bethlehem Haven, a nonprofit that serves individuals at risk of homelessness, and ACTION-Housing, Pittsburgh's largest nonprofit affordable housing developer that specializes in quality, affordable supportive housing. Together, the two nonprofit community partners share over 100 years of combined experience providing housing and supportive services to vulnerable Pittsburgh and Allegheny County residents.

Uptown Flats will be a 36,000 square-foot, four-story building featuring low-income affordable housing and wrap-around supportive services provided on site by Bethlehem Haven for households at or below 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI). All units will have project-based vouchers through the [Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh](#). Residents will not pay more than 30% of their income in rent. Utilities are included.

Four of the units will be designed for individuals with mobility accessibility needs. Two of the units will be designed for individuals with hearing and/or vision accessibility needs.

“When completed, Uptown Flats will create affordable permanent housing in Uptown and help Bethlehem Haven create a housing continuum that will allow vulnerable residents to find stability and success in life,” said [Annette M. Fetchko](#), RN, MHA, executive director of Bethlehem Haven. “By integrating housing with health care and extensive supportive services, this project will improve lives by empowering residents on the path to self-sufficiency.”

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To make way for the Uptown Flats development, Bethlehem Haven purchased four vacant, neighboring properties at 1400-1408 Fifth Avenue. “By reclaiming and removing blighted, dilapidated buildings and replacing them with new residential development with on-site wrap-around services, Uptown Flats will be a catalyst for hope and change as well as a vibrant partner and contributor to the [Uptown Ecolnnovation District](#),” Fetchko added.

“When Bethlehem Haven joined the Pittsburgh Mercy Family of Care in 2016, we made a promise to the community that we would be better together. We promised to use our 70 years of combined strengths and experience to expand our award-winning homeless services continuum to serve even more of the most vulnerable,” [Tony Beltran](#), president and CEO of Pittsburgh Mercy, said. “We know how important safe, affordable housing and access to wrap-around supportive services are to a person’s health and well-being. Uptown Flats is another innovative example of how Pittsburgh Mercy and Bethlehem Haven are honoring our legacy, living our mission, and fulfilling our promise to the most vulnerable in the Uptown community and Allegheny County,” Beltran added.

“We are thrilled to be a part of the development team for Uptown Flats,” stated [Lena Andrews](#), CEO of ACTION-Housing. “Given the increasing need for affordable and supportive housing in Pittsburgh, this is exactly the type of project we should be building to support residents in a holistic way,” Andrews continued.

Amenities on the first floor will include a community room for residents, an outdoor courtyard, and offices for Bethlehem Haven and Pittsburgh Mercy colleagues to provide supportive services to residents. Uptown Flats will also offer residents convenient access to Pittsburgh Regional Transit’s Bus Rapid Transit lines and new protected bike lanes along Fifth and Forbes avenues, secure bicycle parking, storage, and laundry.

The \$22.8 million Uptown Flats development was made possible by an award of 9% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. Major funders include the National Equity Fund, BNY, [Trinity Health](#), the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County Economic Development, FHLBank Pittsburgh, [McAuley Ministries Foundation](#), Irene C. Shea Charitable Foundation, and the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh.

Bethlehem Haven and ACTION-Housing are the developers of Uptown Flats. [LGA Partners](#) is the project architect. [Mosites Construction](#) is the general contractor. [Fahringer, McCarty, and Grey](#) is the civil engineer. [Iams Consulting](#) is the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) engineer. The project will seek Enterprise Green Communities Certification.

The planned development has received overwhelming community support from the City of Pittsburgh, Uptown Partners of Pittsburgh, the Hill Community Development Corporation (Hill CDC), the Hill District Consensus Group (HDCG), the Hill District Collaborative (HDC), and neighboring Uptown nonprofit organizations, such as Duquesne University, Jubilee Kitchen, and UPMC Mercy.

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Phase 1, which included the year-long, \$4.2 million preservation and renovation of Bethlehem Haven's 1410 Fifth Avenue location, a permanent supportive housing program for 26 women and gender non-conforming individuals, was completed in March of 2024.

For updates, follow Bethlehem Haven on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

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Editor's note: Please credit renderings: Courtesy of LGA Partners. Photos from the groundbreaking will be available to media upon request following the event. Contact [Linda K. Ross](#) or [Emilee Howells-Cribbs](#).

About Bethlehem Haven

[Bethlehem Haven](#), part of the [Pittsburgh Mercy](#) Family of Care and its award-winning homeless services continuum since 2016, has provided shelter and supportive services to thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness for more than four decades. Every person who lives at Bethlehem Haven is linked to supportive services, personalized for their individual needs. Bethlehem Haven's mission is to provide a continuum of care for individuals that leads toward self-sufficiency. The founding values of hospitality, compassion, integrity, and empowerment are at the heart of everything Bethlehem Haven does, even as it has expanded its offerings. To learn more about Bethlehem Haven or to donate in support of its important work in the community, please visit at [bethlehemhaven.org](#). Follow Bethlehem Haven on [LinkedIn](#), and [Instagram](#).

About Pittsburgh Mercy

[Pittsburgh Mercy](#) is one of the largest community health and social service providers and employers in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We offer help – and hope – to 18,000 of our community's most vulnerable in 60+ locations:

- People who have complex behavioral and physical health challenges.
- People who have intellectual and developmental disabilities
- People who are experiencing homelessness
- People who need wrap-around services to live safe, healthy, and well in the community.

We are the largest Integrated Community Wellness Center (ICWC) in Pennsylvania and the only one in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We are a five-time awardee of Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) expansion grants. Pittsburgh Mercy is a member of [Trinity Health](#), serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. Our mission is to be a compassionate and transforming, healing presence within our communities. To learn more about Pittsburgh Mercy or to donate in support of its important work in the community, please visit [www.pittsburghmercy.org](#). Follow Pittsburgh Mercy on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [X](#).

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About ACTION-Housing

[ACTION-Housing](https://actionhousing.org/) was founded in 1957 by City of Pittsburgh Mayor David L. Lawrence and philanthropist Richard King Mellon, along with other civic leaders. The organization was created with the guiding principle that any great city must have not only a vibrant city center, but also strong neighborhoods and good housing for its residents. Through the years, this mission of improving our neighborhoods has taken many different forms. Most visibly, ACTION-Housing Inc. has a long-standing history of real estate development designed to serve the community's most vulnerable populations while addressing emerging community needs. Since 1985, ACTION-Housing has developed or assisted in the development of over 4,500 units of housing, both single- and multifamily. This housing responds to the needs of low-income households of all types: seniors, individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities, persons who are experiencing homelessness, veterans, and young people who have aged out of the foster care system. Most of these units were created in collaboration with community-based partners, such as local development corporations and supportive service providers. ACTION-Housing's mission is to empower people to build more secure and self-sufficient lives through the provision of decent, affordable housing, essential supportive services, asset building programs, and educational and employment opportunities. To learn more, please visit <https://actionhousing.org/>.

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