

Columbia Community Development Corporation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tony Mayfield
573-446-4600

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Local Banks Donate Over \$80,000 to Furnish Patriot Place

COLUMBIA, MO -- A group of local banks has committed \$81,434 to purchase furnishings for 13 apartments and the construction of a picnic pavilion and other amenities for Patriot Place, a new apartment complex for veterans created through a partnership of the Columbia Housing Authority and Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital. The seven banks contributing are UMB Bank, Merchants and Farmers Bank, Landmark Bank, Commerce Bank, Central Bank of Boone County, The Bank of Missouri and Bank of America. The gift will be made on Friday, March 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at Patriot Place, 2112 Business Loop 70 East.

The contribution was made possible because of the banks' commitment to funding affordable housing through the Columbia Community Development Corporation (CCDC). For 23 years, the Corporation has funded and built more than \$3 million in affordable housing in the community. According to CCDC President Tony Mayfield, the Patriot Place project was a perfect fit for the organization's goals.

"As local banks, we have a strong commitment to the growth and development of all our community, including those who need an affordable home," Mayfield, who is also chairman and chief executive officer of the Greater Missouri Region of UMB Bank, explained. "Patriot Place is a particularly critical program as our country strives to end veteran homelessness."

The CCDC was created in 1994 by local bankers specifically to stimulate new housing in the City of Columbia's poorest census tracts. By building affordable homes in these areas, the CCDC hoped to stimulate private builders to do so as well. In 1995, the CCDC partnered with the City of Columbia HOME program to provide grant funds that made these new homes even more affordable. Then, in 1996, the group partnered with Columbia Public Schools building trades program to construct the houses.

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With a goal of opening Patriot Place in March 2016, the donation will allow the purchase of all bedroom, living room, and dining room furniture; kitchen housewares; bedding, linens, pillows, & towels, and patio furniture. Everything a Veteran needs to establish a home.. It takes more than \$4,000 per unit to fully equip a veteran's apartment.

Patriot Place is a unique housing project in Columbia that provides permanent housing to homeless Veterans. The Patriot Place Apartments includes 25 one-bedroom apartments for homeless Veterans along with on-site supportive services provided by the Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital. Permanent rent subsidies are provided by the Columbia Housing Authority through the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program.

For more information on Patriot Place and how you can help, email patriotplacecolumbiamo@gmail.com.

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