
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 27, 2008

Ald. Willie Wade
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New Supportive Housing Facility Bringing Services to City's Most Vulnerable Residents

*Ald. Willie Wade to Emcee Thursday Grand Opening Event That Includes
County Exec, Other Officials*

Ald. Willie C. Wade will serve as the emcee during a special grand opening event at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday, August 28) for the new **United House Apartments, 2500 W. Center St.** -- Milwaukee's first affordable supportive housing for persons experiencing mental health issues.

The opening event for the facility will also include participation by Milwaukee County Executive **Scott Walker**, County Supervisor **Elizabeth Coggs-Jones**, Commissioner **Rocky Marcoux** of the Department of City Development, **Pastor Elloyd Jones** of United Christian Church, and several other officials. **Media coverage is welcome.**

Made possible by grants and funding from several sources, including the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority, United House will provide 24 one-bedroom housing units for persons experiencing mental health issues. On-site supportive services and peer support will be provided by Our Space Inc. and the building management will be provided by Cardinal Capital Management. All United House applicants must be receiving services from the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division's Service Access to Independent Living (SAIL) Program.

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United House Opening/ADD ONE

Ald. Wade said the effort to create United House was sparked by media reports during the past few years detailing the deplorable housing conditions that many Milwaukeeans with serious mental health issues endure year after year.

“One of the articles talked about how one of the residents died and was in his apartment deceased for several days without anyone knowing,” the alderman said. “To me that scenario is unacceptable and shouldn’t happen here, and thanks to our partners from the city, state, county and non-profit sectors, we’ve taken an important step (United House) to try to make sure it doesn’t happen again.”

Mayor Tom Barrett praised the cooperative, multi-agency effort that brought United House to fruition.

“Since launching the Milwaukee Supportive Housing Commission, we’ve worked collaboratively with many partners to identify resources and opportunities to develop housing that offers the support that is so critical to the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens,” said Mayor Tom Barrett. “The City of Milwaukee is proud of its partnership with United Baptist Church to transform vacant land into the United House; affordable housing that helps build stronger neighborhoods.”

Ald. Wade contacted Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones and Pastor Elloyd Jones and others, and together they started to work on addressing the issue. Ald. Wade was able to put together the bank of land needed to start negotiating the United House project. “Supervisor Coggs-Jones brought resources from the county, Pastor Jones brought resources from his church, and (WHEDA secretary) Antonio Riley brought state resources to help bring this project to fruition,” he said.

“United House Apartments is an example of how I feel these citizens in our community should live. It is my hope that this sets a new bar for living standards and government responsibility as it relates to housing for citizens dealing with mental illness issues,” he said.

Ald. Wade said he has toured United House and is pleased with the result. “I like what I’ve seen and I truly believe through our collaboration we have gotten it right,” he said.

“I can’t wait to personally welcome the new United House residents to the 7th Aldermanic District,” he said.