



For Immediate Release
June 25, 2024

Contact: Rod Harmon, Communications Manager
cell: 207-272-3986; email: rharmon@avestahousing.org

AVESTA HOUSING CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF VILLAGE COMMONS

New development adds 31 affordable homes for older adults in Scarborough, Maine

SCARBOROUGH, Maine — Avesta Housing, the largest nonprofit affordable housing provider in northern New England, celebrated the addition of 31 new affordable homes for older adults on June 18 with the grand opening celebration of Village Commons, 246 U.S. Route 1.

Village Commons combines a creative approach to affordable housing with smart growth development principles to provide safe, quality, affordable homes for ages 55 and older. The building is part of Firehouse Village, a 2.6-acre development on the site of Scarborough's former public safety campus in the Oak Hill neighborhood. The Firehouse Village developer, Firehouse Ventures LLC, invited Avesta to add affordable housing to the campus' mix of retail, dining, and office space.

Village Commons was designed by Kaplan Thompson Architects and built by Hebert Construction LLC, both Maine-based companies. More than 30 local subcontractors and suppliers contributed to the development. Residents enjoy on-site parking and laundry facilities as well as a community room that provides the neighborhood with space to participate in activities and classes offered by Avesta's resident service partners.

"This effort illustrates how former public space can be transformed to help create much-needed affordable housing and promote a vibrant, accessible, mixed-use community for residents and neighbors," said Avesta Housing President & CEO **Rebecca Hatfield**. "It is also a testament to how collaboration can help to create more affordable housing."

Also speaking at the grand opening were **Jack Soley** of Firehouse Ventures LLC; **Mark Wiesendanger**, director of development for MaineHousing; and **April Sither**, vice chair of the Scarborough Town Council.

Dawn Pendergrass provided the final speech at the event, in which she shared how Avesta helped her 74-year-old father find a home after he lost his life savings to an internet scam that targeted older adults. Suddenly finding himself on an extremely limited income, he could not find an apartment that he could afford. Then Dawn got a phone call from Avesta telling her that her father had been approved for an apartment at Village Commons.

"Tears streamed down my face as I signed the initial paperwork in the (Avesta) office. The stress and worry that I had been carrying for the past year began to lift," Dawn said. "Avesta Housing saved my dad."

PHOTOS*

1. Village Commons provides 31 affordable homes for ages 55 and older in Scarborough, Maine. (Photo by Kaplan Thompson Architects)
2. Avesta Housing President & CEO Rebecca Hatfield speaks during the grand opening celebration of Village Commons in Scarborough on June 18.
3. Dawn Pendergrass hugs Avesta Housing President & CEO Rebecca Hatfield following Pendergrass' speech at the grand opening celebration of Village Commons in Scarborough on June 18. Pendergrass spoke about how Avesta

helped her father with an affordable home at Village Commons after he lost his life savings in an internet scam.

*All photos by Avesta Housing unless otherwise indicated

###

About Avesta Housing

Avesta Housing is a nonprofit affordable housing provider with more than 50 years of experience as a leader in affordable housing development and property management in Maine and New Hampshire. The organization is headquartered in Portland, Maine, and operates 100 affordable properties, more than 3,100 apartments and two assisted living facilities, providing safe, affordable homes for more than 4,700 people every day. An additional 800 new homes are in the development pipeline. Avesta's mission is to improve lives and strengthen communities by promoting and providing quality affordable homes for people in need. www.AvestaHousing.org

307 Cumberland Avenue • Portland, Maine 04101
207-553-7777 • 1-800-339-6516 Voice/TTY
207-553-7778 Fax • www.avestahousing.org



In accordance with Federal Law and USDA Policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call 1-800-795-3272 (voice) or 202-720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.