

Housing project answers prayers

Colneth Smiley Jr. Friday, October 30, 2015



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Church and state joined forces to lift families out of homelessness in Uphams Crossing, a multi-unit housing development built on the former property of St. Kevin's

Parish in Dorchester and now home to 80 families of low and moderate income, 20 of whom were once homeless.

“We are so excited and grateful to be here,” said Christine Wright, who fulfilled her dream of permanent housing after she moved in with her 8-year-old daughter, Gianna, earlier this month.

“We spent many years bouncing around from house to house and couch to couch,” Wright said tearfully. “We now have a place that we can call our own home ... This will be the foundation to build a more stable life for me and my daughter, and to start a new chapter in our journey.”

Coordinated by the Archdiocese of Boston’s Planning Office for Urban Affairs, the development is a major part of the revitalization of the Uphams Corner community.

Construction on the buildings on Bird Street and Columbia Road began in 2013 with funding from the city, the state, Bank of America and federal programs. Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley and Mayor Martin J. Walsh dedicated the development yesterday.

“This place that has been hallowed by so many faithful people and exists because of the sacrifices and generosity of generations of Catholics who’ve gone before us,” O’Malley said. “Taking care of each other is what our faith inspires us to do. So this is a wonderful expression to that.”

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