



NEW
AVENUES
for **YOUTH**

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Bridge Meadows and New Avenues for Youth Launch Innovative Housing Program for Youth Transitioning out of Foster Care

The Dorothy Lemelson House & the New Meadows Program will offer former foster youth a safe place to live while they pursue education, job training and self-sufficiency

PORTLAND, OREGON: September 8th, 2017 – Bridge Meadows and New Avenues for Youth have joined forces with local philanthropist Mrs. Dorothy Lemelson to create an innovative housing community for transition age foster youth. Leveraging Bridge Meadows intergenerational healing community and New Avenues for Youth self-sufficiency and life skills services expertise, these two organizations are combining resources to build and operate the *Dorothy Lemelson House & New Meadows Program*. Located adjacent to the Bridge Meadows housing community in N. Portland, the Dorothy Lemelson House will offer former foster care youth a safe place to live while they pursue education and job training, and as they practice and learn self-sufficiency skills.

“This story is one of the convergence between two shared visions,” says Dr. Derenda Schubert, Executive Director of Bridge Meadows. “As we’ve witnessed the power of our intergenerational community in healing young foster care youth as they find permanency in forever families, we recognized our model’s strengths could be extended to help youth in foster care on their pathway to adulthood. New Avenues, as a lead agency provider of job training and transition services for foster care youth, was searching for a housing model for youth that could provide more than just bricks and mortar, and we knew they were the perfect partner for this project.”

Located at 8710 N. Dana Avenue in Portland, the Dorothy Lemelson House will be made up of 10 studios and five one-bedroom apartments. This new community is just one block away from Bridge Meadows’ North Portland community, offering youth the benefits of intergenerational care and support. In addition to the legacy gift from Mrs. Lemelson, funding for the construction of this new housing community has come from a variety of sources: Oregon Housing & Community Services, Portland Housing Bureau, May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust, Windermere Foundation and the Home Builders Foundation.

“As an organization committed to ending youth homelessness, our partnership with Bridge Meadows to create a trauma-informed and life-skills community housing program is one we believe will have a significant impact on the lives of young people who are among the most at-risk of experiencing homelessness,” says Sean Suib, Executive Director of New Avenues for Youth. “By combining the shared expertise of both organizations, this innovative program will provide the kind of safe and stable housing and support youth need to live healthy, self-sufficient lives.”

The Dorothy Lemelson House official groundbreaking ceremony will take place Friday, September 8th and construction is scheduled to be completed in Spring of 2018.

About Bridge Meadows

Founded in 2004, Bridge Meadows is the only intentional, intergenerational housing community of its kind in the region, and the first in the country in an urban setting. Welcoming its first residents home to North Portland in 2011, Bridge Meadows works at the intersection of child welfare, affordable housing, health and aging – areas the social sector has historically kept siloed. Its community-driven program of integrated on-site services and therapeutic interventions generates reciprocal social capital that improves quality of life for all three generations: foster youth, adoptive parents and elders. For more information, please visit:

www.bridgemeadows.org

About New Avenues for Youth

Since 1997, New Avenues for Youth has impacted the lives of more than 20,000 youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness through a range of services that address basic needs and safety, provide opportunities for education and career, and help youth achieve self-sufficiency. For more information about New Avenues for Youth, visit www.newavenues.org.