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Inglis, Methodist Services unveil $16.8M Philadelphia apartment complex for homeless, disabled

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INGLIS

Inglis Methodist Gardens in the Wynnefield Heights section of Philadelphia.

Philadelphia nonprofits Methodist Services and Inglis unveiled what they are calling a "first-of-its-kind community" in the city's Wynnefield Heights section on Friday.

The $16.8 million Inglis Methodist Gardens was created for formerly homeless individuals and families, as well as people with disabilities.

The complex features 47 "affordable, integrated, and supportive" apartments, 23 of which are fully accessible and technologically-enhanced for greater independence.

Located on the campus of Methodist Services, Inglis Methodist Gardens was funded by a number of partners including Aetna Better Health of Pennsylvania, which donated $4 million, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, which made a $700,000 investment. The project was awarded low-income housing tax credits from the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. Funding was also provided by the project's equity investor, Boston Financial, and its lender, TD Bank.

Anne Rice-Burgess, CEO of Methodist Services, said Inglis Methodist Gardens was built to offer a "fresh model" of community housing for individuals and families who are housing-insecure, and, in most cases, whose health has been compromised.

"We have forged a new community 'neighborhood' with the type of high-quality housing that everyone deserves, in close proximity to our Philadelphia Housing as Health Collaborative providers, utilizing advanced outreach methods," she said.

The two organizations noted that Philadelphia, like many large urban cities across the country, lacks affordable housing tailored to the physical and financial needs of individuals transitioning from homelessness, or those with disabilities.

"Our goal is not simply to build housing, but to create a true intergenerational community in which people support each other to live healthy, active, and engaged lives," said Ben Laudermilch, vice president and executive director for Inglis Housing Corp. "We look forward to sharing all we've learned with others – in Pennsylvania and across the nation – who are similarly focused on how safe, affordable, accessible and technology-enhanced housing can be used to improve the health of people with complex needs, while reducing overall health care costs."

Founded in 1877, Inglis provides daily services to more than 2,500 people in the region with disabilities. The organization supports independent, community living through innovative day programming, adapted technology, and employment services. It also provides long-term, residential living at Inglis House for adults with significant physical disabilities and complex health care needs.

Methodist Services, which traces its history back to 1879, provides life-enriching programs to children, adults and families facing challenges such as poverty, homelessness, disabilities, and inequities in education. The organization serves more than 2,800 individuals annually.

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