



**For immediate release**

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**Avalon Housing partners with HouseN2Home and Kiwanis Thrift Sale to furnish 70 new Ann Arbor apartments for people exiting homelessness**

**Ann Arbor, MI** – In 2020 Avalon Housing will complete construction on the first phase of 70 units of affordable housing at **Hickory Way Apartments** on South Maple Road in Ann Arbor. Construction of Hickory Way was made possible through low-income housing tax credits awarded to Avalon through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA).

Hickory Way leases and move-ins will start in December 2020. Hickory Way tenants will be exiting homelessness and moving into new homes for the first time in a long time. Most will be carrying their belongings with them, and all will be in need of basic furnishings for their new homes. Finding furnishings for these 70 households has proven challenging, especially during the pandemic. For help, Avalon first turned to Washtenaw-based HouseN2Home, a local nonprofit that fully furnishes apartments for people throughout the County as they exit homelessness.

HouseN2Home is enlisting their volunteers, clubs, groups, organizations and businesses to provide essential items – like smaller furniture, bedding, dishware, cooking utensils and cleaning supplies - for each of the 70 households.

In addition, to secure larger essential items, like couches, kitchen tables and dressers, Avalon has partnered with the Kiwanis Thrift Sale, the main service project of Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation, one of Washtenaw County's oldest community service nonprofits. The Kiwanis's store in Scio Township had been closed to the public since March due to COVID-19. But knowing that they had a September re-opening date, and learning about the scope of tenant needs at Hickory Way, the Kiwanis's sales committee offered to partner with Avalon to build their inventory and help provide furnishings for these new tenants.

Says Marcia Luke-van Dijk, Avalon's Director of Fund Development: "Avalon is thrilled to work alongside HouseN2Home and Kiwanis to help 70 of our neighbors not just move into housing, but to be warmly welcomed into their homes. For most of us, it's not the place itself, but the sense of comfort we cultivate within it that makes it feel like home. Everyone can be a part of making that comfort a reality for people by providing

these furnishings. Working together, we can build a Hickory Way community where everyone has the chance to thrive.”

Ruth Ann Logue from HouseN2Home adds: “We are thrilled to collaborate with Avalon at Hickory Way. It is a wonderful opportunity for HouseN2Home to do what we do best, furnish homes for adults moving out of homelessness. This project is a great way to pull the community together for a common cause during these difficult times.”

**Starting September 15**, anyone wishing to donate gently used, clean furniture in good condition can bring their items to Kiwanis’s store at 100 N. Staebler Road in Ann Arbor on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am-3 pm. Hickory Way tenants are **especially in need of loveseats, comfortable chairs, small bedroom dressers, small kitchen tables and kitchen chairs**. Smaller household items, including end tables, lamps, easy chairs, and night stands are also needed for Hickory Way, in addition to other items that people may wish to donate to Kiwanis. Donations can also be dropped off on Saturdays from 9 am-1 pm when the Kiwanis Thrift Sale re-opens on September 19.

If you are interested in “sponsoring” a Hickory Way unit through HouseN2Home or to learn more about the great work they do for the community, see [houses2home.org](http://houses2home.org).

Financial donations for the purchase of items for Hickory Way households can be made online via Avalon Housing at [avalonhousing.org/hickoryway](http://avalonhousing.org/hickoryway).

Avalon will **not** be taking applications for the Hickory Way units or maintaining a waiting list. Housing applications are handled through Housing Access of Washtenaw County (HAWC). Contact HAWC at (734) 961-1999 or [housingaccess.net](http://housingaccess.net).

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Avalon Housing, Inc. is a Washtenaw County non-profit created in 1992 as a long-term solution to homelessness. Avalon develops, owns and manages supportive housing for over 800 of Washtenaw County’s lowest-income residents, including 200 children. We serve people who have experienced homelessness and who have behavioral and/or physical health challenges. Supportive housing is a combination of permanently affordable housing and wraparound support services that help people achieve housing stability and improve their quality of life. To learn more, visit [avalonhousing.org](http://avalonhousing.org).

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Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor was founded in 1921. We are over 135 members and 175 volunteers from Ann Arbor and southeast Michigan dedicated to serving the children and families of our community. In 2019, we provided over 38,000 volunteer hours. The club organized and chartered the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor Foundation, Inc. (501(c)(3)) in 1964. In 2019-2020, Kiwanis gifted \$644,000 to needy individuals and community agencies. Since 1921, through proceeds from the Kiwanis Thrift Sale, gifts and work from our members, volunteers and staff, we have provided over \$7,500,000 in grants, services, and merchandise to children, families, and individuals across our community. To learn more, or if you wish to join us as a volunteer or as a member, visit [a2kiwanisfoundation.org](http://a2kiwanisfoundation.org).

HouseN2Home creates spaces for families to thrive in. HouseN2Home is a group of volunteers from southeast Michigan who help to provide furnishings for people in Washtenaw County who are moving out of homeless shelters and into housing. They began in 2017 as a small group of friends working together to furnish a home for one single mom and her children. Inspired by that experience, and by the need in the community, they have grown to over two dozen volunteers and have completely furnished the homes of 85 families coming out of shelters in Washtenaw County. To learn more, visit [housen2home.org](http://housen2home.org).

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