



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

PHFA's Housing
Services Department
Best Practices

Monument Village "Heritage Farm"

Categories: Healthy Living

Outcomes:

Heritage Farm provides access to healthy foods, health education programs, job training and volunteer opportunities for families.

Program Components:

Partnership – Monument Village currently partners with Heritage Farm. Methodist Services has committed to the undertaking an added role for families, with the development of a five acre parcel of land entitled "Heritage Farm."

Program Development – The focus is on making local sustainable organic agriculture an essential part of this community through farming. The children and their families are learning to eat in a healthier and affordable manner, members of the campus community have opportunities to gain life skills and work skills which increase their potential for employment and reduce their risk of returning to homelessness.

Interns – Heritage Farm maintains relationships with Penn State University who provided for the first time in Philadelphia a free intern for 12 weeks. The farm also received and installed a "high tunnel" from St. Joseph's University (a \$9,000 value) with help from The Enterprise Center, CDC Farmers taught at Del Val College, Philadelphia University, Swarthmore College, Stockton State, Drexel University and Moore College.

Units: Monument Village consist of 60 one, two, three and four bedroom townhouse apartments

Management Agent: Methodist Services/ Columbus Property Management

Service Coordinator: Beth Abrams
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Background:

Monument Village is located in Philadelphia. Thirty apartments accommodate woman heads of household and their children, all of whom have been homeless and have dealt with such issues as recovery from substance abuse.

Investment in Services: Heritage Farm was designed to be self-sustaining, requiring start-up funds but with the ability to fund itself beyond the first year. Costs are controlled by the fact that the organization owns the land, it is a tax exempt organization and contributions by partners.

RESULTS

Increased community involvement

Increased community partnership

Improved educational opportunities for adults and children

Improved quality of life

For more information,
contact PHFA's Housing Services Department:

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