

## Homeless housing project on track



Photo by: Chitose Suzuki

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**HELP ON THE WAY:** Supporters await a tour yesterday of the in-progress Francis Grady Apartments, a housing and medical care facility for homeless people.

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By: Donna Goodison

Construction of a \$14 million affordable housing and medical care facility for homeless people is expected to be completed late this year in Jamaica Plain and reach full occupancy early next year.

Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corp. is developing the Francis Grady Apartments complex with the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and Pine Street Inn.

The facility will have 30 apartments with residential assistance including counseling, job-readiness training, home budgeting, case management and crisis intervention. A 20-bed outpatient clinic and respite medical care facility also will serve the homeless.

The project is taking shape in BHCHP's former location of the Barbara McInnis House. The medical respite facility for homeless people in need of pre- and post-operative care outgrew the space and moved to Albany Street in 2008.

"They wanted to see how the building could still be used to keep their mission of providing services to homeless folks, so we came up with the idea of having studio apartments on the second and third floor ... and then having medical care on the first floor," said Richard Thal, JPNDC's executive director. "Even with their expanded facility in the South End, they're still not able to accommodate all of the people who need that kind of care. We also hope that having the facility in the building will improve the medical care of people living in the apartments."

Project funding includes a \$5.1 million investment from UnitedHealthcare through a low-income housing tax credit partnership with Enterprise Community Investment, \$5.3 million in debt financing from city and state affordable housing programs, and \$3.5 million from BHCHP.

Francis Grady was a longtime social activist from Dorchester who was a big supporter of the Barbara McInnis House before his death in 2011.

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