

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RENOVATIONS SET TO BEGIN ON WESTVIEW, BROOKHAVEN COMMUNITIES**

**(Greenville, S.C.)** The Greenville Housing Authority (TGHA) has garnered over \$22 million in public and private funding for a comprehensive renovation of 134 public housing units in the Westview and Brookhaven communities, which were built in the 1970s and 1940s, respectively. The project includes new roofs and siding; new kitchens and baths; new flooring, windows and doors; new appliances with the addition of washers, dryers and dishwashers and new walkways designed to meet ADA and connectivity guidelines. Additional improvements include replacing underground utilities and installing new electrical and HVAC systems. Plans also include 12 artist studios, a new club house at Westview and renovations to the Resident Supportive Services and Property Management office at Brookhaven.

Construction will occur in phases with the entire process expected to take 12-15 months. Due to the scope of work, we will temporarily relocate Westview and Brookhaven residents to other units over the next six months. Our federally mandated relocation plan includes temporarily moving families to a new place and for those who choose to return to the community, we will cover the cost associated with moving the family back. The relocations will also be done in phases, and residents with school-age children will not be relocated until the end of the school year.

To assist residents, we are providing packing materials and are contracted with a private moving company to move residents' belongings to their new units. We are also paying any related fees and security deposits for utility services for the temporary units. Upon completion of the rehabilitation, Westview and Brookhaven residents will have the option to return to their community, remain where they are, voluntarily accept permanent relocation or receive a Housing Choice Voucher if one becomes available in the future. Counseling, advisory services and housing search assistance is made available to all residents.

We have been planning this renovation since November 2013. For health and safety reasons it has been necessary to take 28 of our units' offline due to failed underground plumbing. This reinforced how dire the need is to bring these communities up to today's living standards. While we understand our residents' concerns about being relocated, we are guiding and supporting them every step of the way, and we're excited for them to be able to return to brand new units with modern amenities. The rehabilitation costs per unit is approximately \$45,000.

There are currently 4,500 families on TGHA's waiting list, and we receive 30,000 calls and 9,000 walk-ins a year. Perhaps more than anyone, TGHA recognizes the need for affordable housing in the Greenville community. With only 579 total units in our portfolio, we are constantly working with federal, state and local partners to identify new affordable housing investors and developers, as well as local rental property owners to partner with.

In June of this year, we will open the newly developed 55 unit Manor at West Greenville, located at 11 Manning Street. We also began construction of the Heritage at Sliding Rock, a 60 unit development for seniors' located at the corner of Ramsey Drive and Greenacre Road in the Nicholtown Community. With the newly constructed Manor at West Greenville, Heritage at Sliding Rock and the redevelopment of Brookhaven Apartments and Westview Homes; we've successfully garnered approximately \$40 million of public and private funds for the preservation and creation of 238 affordable housing units. We are steadfast in continuing of efforts of creating affordable housing opportunities for the citizens of Greenville County.