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FLORIDA HOME PARTNERSHIP BREAKS GROUND ON AFFORDABLE LIVING HOUSING COMMUNITY IN WIMAUMA

Magnolia Garden Square One of Florida's First Communities to offer Affordable, Healthy Living Features

JUNE 24, 2022, WIMAUMA, FL – Florida Home Partnership, Hillsborough County's leading non-profit certified affordable housing homebuilder, broke ground today on Magnolia Garden Square in Wimauma, Florida. Magnolia Garden Square is one of the first affordable housing communities in Florida to also offer healthy living features that will enhance quality of life for its residents.

The community will feature 38 new homes that are available to those earning 80 percent or below the median income. The owners receive their loans through the USDA Mutual Self-Help Housing Program, and are expected to participate a minimum of 600 hours in the building of their homes and their neighbors' homes, using sweat equity as a stipulation to the loan.

"We are so proud to build these homes and to partner with USDA to provide affordable living options in Wimauma," said Vanessa Josey, FHP COO. "The program is designed to build a sense of community and ownership that is crucial to its long-term success. It's wonderful to see these residents have the opportunity to not only purchase and own a home, but also have a stake in the community, which is so meaningful and enhances their pride of ownership."

The community of villas and townhomes will have a variety of environmental and healthy features that will enhance the quality of its residents' lifestyles. The design of these new homes will be centered around a green space that will feature native Florida plants, shaded walkways, and pergolas that combined, will all enhance the community aspect for its residents. Each home will also have design elements that include healthy living features, such as:

- Air quality
- Natural Light
- Biophilic Design
- Fitness
- Social Connectivity + Walkability
- Comfort

"We truly see the green space as a meeting spot for the community. We envision them strolling the area in the evenings, playing catch with their children, and gathering to enjoy the outdoors on a beautiful fall afternoon," said Josey. "We developed this community with all those things in mind so our homeowners can enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle in their own home and neighborhood."

Joining today's celebration were a variety of local and state officials dedicated to growing affordable housing opportunities throughout Florida, as well as FHP leaders and board members, and current and former FHP clients. Speakers included: Martine Dorvil, FHP Board Member, Michael Morina, FHP Executive Director, Josué Robles Caraballo, USF Research Faculty in Architecture and Urban Design, Kimberly Overman, Hillsborough County Commissioner, Lakeisha Hood, USDA Rural Development State Director, Cheryl Howell, Hillsborough County Affordable Housing and Community Development Director, and Walter Walker, Jr, FHP Board Member.

"We were thrilled to bring together so many stakeholders who understand the importance of building communities like Magnolia Garden Square," said Michael Morina, FHP Executive Director. "We have incredible partners and supporters throughout Hillsborough County, all dedicated to creating affordable housing opportunities for our residents. We look forward to continuing to work together with these partners to grow additional healthy living communities throughout the region."

FHP expects to start construction of Magnolia Garden Square by the end of the year. For those interested in learning more about affordable housing options through FHP, please visit their website at <https://flhome.org/> or call 813.672.7860

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