Coffelt Lamoreaux Apartment Homes is a $44 million public/private partnership between the Housing Authority of Maricopa County and Gorman & Company, Inc. The comprehensive and historic renovation of the 301 units will continue to house 800 residents on 38 acres located just miles from downtown Phoenix.

This redevelopment is the first in Arizona under a pilot project of HUD called the Rental Assistance Demonstration program. This program allows public housing agencies to leverage public and private debt and equity in order to reinvest in its public housing stock. The program shifts units from the Public Housing program to the Section 8/Multifamily program, so that the providers may leverage the private capital markets to make the improvements. This innovative approach is allowing the 301 units to be brought up to modern standards.

The design of the development was influenced by a health impact assessment. The health impact assessment engaged residents during a series of meetings. The residents asked that the development incorporate health and safety improvements in the community. The development will include a community center incorporating a health clinic, computer learning center, children and adult educational activities and workforce linkage. The 1.4 acre park in the center of the complex will also be renovated following an intergenerational design to promote socializing and outdoor activities for all ages.

Construction on the project is anticipated to start in late 2015 and will be completed in 2017.
Flagstaff Shelter Services is changing the conversation about homelessness and affordable housing in northern Arizona.

Flagstaff Shelter Service is an 87 bed emergency shelter in Northern Arizona that does not turn anyone away, regardless of faith, sobriety, or mental health. The shelter sees more than 120 people a day and provides critical services to those most likely to die on the streets.

Flagstaff Shelter Services is implementing a Housing First approach with clients to eliminate lengthy stays and provide space for those in need of emergency shelter during immediate crisis.

Housing First is an approach used to bring individuals and families experiencing homelessness into housing as quickly as possible and then provide services to help those same people remain housed. Housing First is a proven, effective means of integrating chronically homeless and other highly vulnerable populations into housing.

Supportive housing marries safe, affordable housing with support services aimed at helping individuals stay in their homes and live productive lives. Utilizing this approach will not only enable Flagstaff Shelter Services to serve hundreds more each year, but most importantly, it will create a housing plan for each person that has historically been dependent on the shelter system.
As the executive director of Community Housing Resources of Arizona (CHRA), Joann Hauger has spent 26 years leading one of the state’s most successful nonprofit organizations, educating more than 15,000 lower income families about the advantages and responsibilities of home ownership.

Community Housing Resources of Arizona (CHRA) is a Phoenix-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to help low-to-moderate income families purchase their first home. CHRA also promotes fair housing and equal housing opportunities by educating families about the advantages and responsibilities of home ownership. CHRA was incorporated as a Community Housing Resource Board in 1988 and provides services throughout Maricopa County.

Joann’s volunteer work in the community led her to complete both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in social work with a concentration in planning, administration and community development. Her job with CHRA began as a one-year, part-time executive director position managing a HUD-funded grant to offer scholarships to increase the ranks of minority realtors. At the end of the year, the focus changed, along with the name and CHRA eventually became a leader in affordable housing and housing counseling services.

Homeownership stabilizes families and neighborhoods, is a source of personal pride and self-worth, and increases and focuses a family’s emotional investment in the surrounding community. Joann leaves behind a legacy of commitment, determination, hard work and effectiveness serving families and neighborhoods in Phoenix making homeownership a reality.
Exemplary Urban Multifamily Project
2015

LA MESITA APARTMENT HOMES

La Mesita Apartment Homes offers 80 units of affordable housing the homeless and chronically homeless. The campus offers wrap-around supportive services to help these households develop a sense of long-term stability. Staff at La Mesita monitor the needs of residents, provide referrals and coordinate services as needed, including budget coaching, workforce development, an after school program, and assistance with accessing public benefits.

La Mesita Apartment Homes was rehabilitated from a deteriorating motel built in the early 1940s to a modern Transit Oriented Development. Two phases of the rehabilitation have been completed. The third phase will add 30 permanent supportive housing units and will begin construction in 2016. La Mesita has been given the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification using the latest green building strategies for resource and energy preservation. The project is located along the Valley Metro Light Rail corridor, increasing resident access to services and activities, educational institutions, and businesses.

The project is unique in that it effectively addresses persistent and costly financial and social issues in the community while incorporating and building upon existing resources, revitalizing a blighted neighborhood, and maximizing impact and incomes by collaborating with partners to maximize impact and outcome.

by Kylee H., age 9

Arizona Department of Housing
JOHN GILES
Mayor, City of Mesa

John Giles was elected the 40th Mayor of Mesa, Arizona in August, 2014. Though he has been in office for a short time, Mayor Giles has been an advocate for quality affordable housing that is accessible to the Central Main Extension of the Light Rail system. Mayor Giles understands that these types of housing options have a positive effect on the community and surrounding areas.

Mesa is lucky to have four amazing projects within a half mile of the Light Rail extension into the city.

- Encore on 1st Avenue
- La Mesita
- Escobedo at Vista Verde
- El Rancho Del Arte

These developments serve a wide range of low income people in our community, from seniors to the chronically homeless. These projects were difficult to support because of complicated structuring, yet Mayor Giles showed the tenacity that it takes for a public official to get the job done.

Mayor Giles recognizes the challenges and because of his vision to serve all residents of Mesa, he rises to the challenge and brings city staff with him to succeed.
Exemplary Rural Multifamily Project
2015

FLAGSTAFF SENIOR MEADOWS APARTMENTS

Flagstaff Senior Meadows Apartments and the on-site Community Life Center that provides residents with supporting services, such as counseling, social activities, transportation, health education, health care, and referral services are managed by the Foundation for Senior Living.

Flagstaff Senior Meadows consists of sixty affordable apartment units for low-income seniors. The unit mix includes 46 one-bedroom/one bath and 14 two-bedroom/one bath units. The project’s Community Life Center is a central hub for on-site community services with beautiful mountain views of Humphreys Peak.

The universal design of the project makes it environmentally conscious. The property boasts 100% accessible units with patios and gardens, and close proximity to medical facilities, shopping, parks and other services. The project is solar and is surrounded on two sides by the Flagstaff Urban Trail System.

Truly a community effort, the project took a commitment from all the development partners and the persistent FSL development team, exhibited by the grace and beauty of this property.

Brian Mickelsen
Arizona Department of Housing

Housing Hero Awards 2015
The Tohono O’odham Ki:Ki Association (TOKA) is completing the reconstruction of 60 substandard and uninhabitable rental units in serious need of rehabilitation. This renovation project is providing safe, decent and affordable rental housing to 60 low-income families in Sells, Arizona, the Capitol of the Tohono O’odham Nation.

Housing is a significant challenge on the 2.8 million acres of the Tohono O’odham Nation because the majority of villages of the Nation are extremely rural and more than 100 miles from basic services like gas stations and grocery stores. Sells is the largest village on the Nation and the center for education, government and economic activity, but it is also rural in that it is more than 60 miles from Tucson, the closest metropolitan area.

Having homes in this region is vitally important from a cultural and economic standpoint. The 60 units, which account for more than half of the 112 rental homes managed by TOKA, in Sells, have dramatically improved the quality of life for the O’odham families who now enjoy them. The homes were demolished to the outer walls, received new plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems, new framing, drywall, paint and cabinets, as well as upgraded roof systems. In addition, insulation and windows were upgraded to meet and exceed new energy standards, and all appliances were replaced with ENERGY STAR qualified appliances to save energy, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and air pollutants, and save money by lowering residents utility bills.

Of the 60 renovated units, 12 were modernized to provide accessibility for disabled and elderly individuals. The senior-friendly features include ramps to exterior doors, wider halls and wider doors. In addition, the master bathroom in each of the 12 units includes grab bars, step in showers, shower seats and handheld shower heads with lower-level controls. These fixtures enable families to stay together longer and maintain independent living for elders among the younger generations of their families.

The project also included construction of a new 3,000 square foot community center, which is used to conduct important training for rental tenants including financial literacy, budgeting classes, fitness and wellness classes, basic home repair workshops, and home buyer education classes. It also serves as a gathering place for the families who live in the homes and helps to foster a sense of community pride and encourage fellowship.