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Contact:

Greg Turner, Ball Consulting Group, LLC

Phone: 508-380-1217; Email: greg@ballcg.com

In Collaborative Project, Lifeworks Opens Residential Program in Westwood to Serve Individuals with Complex Medical Needs

WESTWOOD, Mass. (Sept. 14, 2020) – The not-for-profit human services provider [Lifeworks Inc.](#) recently celebrated the opening of a residential program in Westwood to provide high-quality medical and social supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, through an innovative partnership with the town, state and a private developer.

The newly built, five-bedroom house is designed specifically for people with significant medical challenges, staffed around the clock with clinical and support staff. To achieve this project, Lifeworks worked closely with the state Department of Developmental Services (DDS), MassHealth, the Town of Westwood, and The Green Company, a Newton-based real estate firm that donated the land for the project.

“This project was an unprecedented collaboration between a person-centered human service provider, innovative state agencies, a welcoming town government and a community-minded developer,” said Daniel Burke, president and CEO of Lifeworks. “Together we have shown how a residential program can be done right for the community and even better for the individuals we serve. We are all proud to make this *their* home.”

The ranch-style house features five bedrooms and a 24/7 staff of nurses and other trained staff members. The home is expected to reach its full occupancy of five residents this fall.

“The Department of Developmental Services always strives to improve the quality of life for the individuals we serve and increase their access to services in the community and was pleased to partner with Lifeworks and the families who passionately advocated for the creation of this specialized home,” said DDS Commissioner Jane Ryder. “By engaging the community and listening to families, Lifeworks was able to create this innovative, specialized group home, which will make an incredible difference in how we serve this vulnerable and complex population and their families.”

Later this year, the Town of Westwood plans to accept municipal ownership of the property where the Lifeworks home is located. All of Lifeworks' residential programs in Westwood and other towns are designed to create a feeling of community for residents, family members, neighbors and the broader community.

“We are honored to be able to participate in the creation of the Lifeworks group home as part of our affordable housing commitment to the Town of Westwood,” said Daniel Green, president of the Green Company, developer of The Homes at 45, a new neighborhood of 55-plus condominium townhomes in Westwood. “It is gratifying to be able to have such a positive impact on the individuals who now live there and on the community of Westwood as a whole.”

About Lifeworks

Founded in 1990, Lifeworks Inc. provides education, jobs and homes for persons with developmental disabilities, including autism. The nonprofit organization serves many suburban towns in the Greater Boston area and supports more than 350 individuals annually. For more information, visit lifeworksma.org.

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