

Boley Centers Win Lilly Reintegration Award



by Jack Humburg

The National Council for Behavioral Healthcare has announced that Boley Centers will be presented with the Lilly Reintegration Award for Housing at their annual conference in Chicago in April. The Lilly Reintegration Awards celebrate the achievements of those in the community who dedicate themselves to improving the lives

of individuals with serious mental illnesses. The \$10,000 award was given to Boley for their continued development of affordable housing for people who are disabled by mental illnesses.

Boley dedicated a total of 78 new units of affordable housing for individuals with mental illnesses during 2011. The Bob Pitts Villas were completed and now provide 16 newly constructed units of “green” certified affordable housing in downtown St. Petersburg. This development was financed with HOME funds from the City of St. Petersburg and a Section 811 Capital Advance from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). Residents pay only 30% of their adjusted income each month for rent. Twin Brooks Apartments was the culmination of several years of determined effort and creative financing. To make this project possible, financing was leveraged from HUD (Section 811 and McKinney Act); the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta (through local member Synovus Bank); State of Florida Homeless Housing Assistance Grant; City of St. Petersburg; Pinellas Affordable Living (Boley’s Community Housing Development Organization); the Bessie Boley Foundation and the Boley Angels. Completed in 2011, Twin Brooks Apartments provides a total of 42 units in three phases.

In addition to the new developments highlighted above, Boley also completed two renovation projects during 2011. The complete rehabilitation of Burlington Gardens in St. Petersburg brought about 20 units of affordable housing, 15 are dedicated to individuals who are considered “chronically homeless.” Funding for this project came from the City of



Bob Pitts Villas provides 16 units for people with disabilities. It is also Boley Center’s first green certified project.

St. Petersburg’s Neighborhood Stabilization Program. The agency also converted an existing aging apartment complex into a newly renovated transitional housing program for Veterans in 2011. The Jerry Howe Apartments now provide 13 beds with financing from the City of Clearwater and the Veterans Administration’s Grant and Per Diem program.

Boley manages 1,040 units of housing which include: group living, supported housing, Mainstream, Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), Shelter Plus Care and unassisted apartment complexes. Since the initial application to HUD, Boley has developed a total of 295 units of housing specifically for people who are homeless and have mental illnesses, including Safe Havens and HOME Tenant-Based Rental Vouchers. [HNN](#)

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