

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Emergency Center Opens  
Thanks to Public-Private Partnership**



**Falls Church, VA** -Thanks to a cooperative partnership between FCHC a Virginia Community Development Corporation (FCHC) and the City of Falls Church, Virginia, the most vulnerable residents of Falls Church now have access to temperature-controlled heating and cooling center in the event of a power outage emergency.

On April 12, 2016, FCHC and Falls Church Mayor, City Council members, Housing Commissioners, the City Fire Marshal and other City staff and residents celebrated the grand opening of the Winter Hill Emergency Heating and Cooling Center. The Center is located in the Jim Moran Community Center of the Winter Hill Apartments, a rental apartment complex owned by FCHC. The new facility includes a natural gas generator. Part of its \$155,643 cost was covered by a \$54,400 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) received from the City and awarded to FCHC.

The Center is now part of Falls Church's Emergency Operations Plan. The site will serve the City's vulnerable populations and is open to both Winter Hill residents and the surrounding community

"Community partnerships build resilience," said City of Falls Church Emergency Manager Tom Polera. "This is the perfect case of working together for the greater good. I look forward to partnering with the Winter Hill community and the Falls Church Housing Corporation to utilize this new facility in case of a City-wide emergency."

The need for a heating and cooling center in Winter Hill became clear in the wake of the 2012 Derecho storm that caused a four-day power outage. FCHC Executive Director Thomas Vaccaro and The NHP Foundation Senior Vice President / Asset Management Fred Mitchell reached out to Polera to seek a collaborative solution to a potentially life-threatening and recurring need. Installing a natural gas generator and other planned upgrades to the existing community center would benefit Winter Hill residents and their nearby neighbors in an emergency.

"The success of this collaboration would not have been possible without the commitment and resources of all of its partners," said Vaccaro.

The Winter Hill Emergency Heating and Cooling Center ribbon cutting ceremony was timed to recognize the 2016 Community Development Block Grant Week. "We are so proud to provide this enhanced degree of safety for Winter Hill's residents and their neighbors."

**About the FCHC**

FCHC, an affordable housing provider in northern Virginia, is committed to preserving and increasing affordable multi-family rental housing by serving unmet needs, promoting northern Virginia, and helping to ensure low- to moderate income families and seniors have housing they can afford. FCHC is a Virginia Community Development Corporation and an affiliate of The NHP Foundation (NHPF). Learn more by calling 703.241.5402 or visiting [www.fchccdc.org](http://www.fchccdc.org)

**About The NHP Foundation**

NHPF is a not for profit real estate organization dedicated to preserving and creating sustainable, service-enriched multifamily housing that is both affordable to low and moderate income families and seniors, and beneficial to their communities. Headquartered in New York City with offices in Washington, DC and Chicago, NHPF owns 36 properties in 14 states and the District of Columbia, totaling over 6,000 units of housing. Visit [www.nhpfoundation.org](http://www.nhpfoundation.org) to learn more.

**Preserving America's Service Enriched Affordable Housing**

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