



ALLEN CHAPEL AME CHURCH



## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Monica Ray  
202.561.3700

February 28, 2013

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Allen Chapel AME and The NHP Foundation Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting for Brand New Senior Living Facility in Ward 8

On Sunday March 10, 2013 at 2:00 pm, we are inviting friends and family of Allen Chapel AME Church, The NHP Foundation and members of the press to commemorate the grand opening of The Roundtree Residences located at 2515 Alabama Avenue, SE, Washington, DC. The Roundtree Residences is a new 91-unit affordable senior living facility named after the acclaimed civil rights activist Rev. Dovey Johnson Roundtree.

Rev. Roundtree rose to prominence as a lawyer in winning the end to segregation and Jim Crow on interstate buses. In that same year she became one of the first women to be ordained to the ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Learn more about Rev. Dovey Roundtree by clicking [here](#).

In keeping with Rev. Roundtree's promotion of minorities, 65% of this \$16 million project was completed by certified minority businesses (CBE), many of which were local to Ward 8. This exceeded the District's requirements of 35% CBE participation, (there was no local requirement). In addition, the project voluntarily required its contractors to have 10% of all hired to be local workers. There is no local hiring requirement, but only a requirement to go through the District's First Source program for new hires, which are generally minimal for this type of project.

The building has 80 one-bedroom units and 11 two-bedroom units, and is only available to seniors making 60% or less of DC's area median income with 20 units set aside for seniors making 50% of the area median income. The project has an abundance of amenities including an exercise room, computer lab, library, coffee bar and a contemporarily designed two story lobby. This building is designed to bring market rate level amenities to an affordable property. The building is built to Enterprise Green Community standards and includes a solar array and partial green roof in addition to many energy saving features.



This project grew out of Allen Chapel AME's vision of providing top quality affordable housing to Ward 8 seniors. Allen Chapel provided the land at below market value. The NHP Foundation (NHPF) took the lead as developer, with District Development Group (DDG) and Vision of Victory, CDC (VOV) assisting. DDG provided construction management services, and the building will be owned by VoV, which is affiliated with Allen Chapel and NHPF.

Strong community support was provided by organizations such as ANC 8B and the entire congregation at Allen Chapel AME Church. Moreover, this venture was made possible through immense support from Enterprise Community Partners, the Deputy Mayor's Office of Planning and Economic Development, the District Department of Housing and Community Development, DC Housing Finance Agency, PNC Bank, Freddie Mac, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Vision of Victory CDC, District Development Group and The NHP Foundation.

Rev. Roundtree is known for her fight for equality and justice for minorities. Mentored and inspired by iconic civil rights figures such as Mary McLeod Bethune and Dr. King, she helped shatter race and gender barriers through her service in the court room, the Army and the pulpit. As a Howard Law graduate, she used her knowledge and experience to successfully defend minority clients involved in civil and criminal cases in the segregated courtrooms of Washington, DC in the 1960's. Her most notable case, Sarah Keys v. Carolina Coach Company, helped end Jim Crow travel laws during the 1961 Freedom Riders campaign. In that same year she became one of the first women to be ordained to the ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

From 1964 until her retirement in 1996, Rev. Roundtree served on the ministerial staff of Allen Chapel AME Church. In her dual roles as minister and lawyer, she fought for individuals and families in DC's most troubled neighborhoods. On March 10th we celebrate her life's work and decades of achievement via a ribbon cutting ceremony of The Roundtree Residences, built in her namesake and ideals.