

CMH: Fundraiser kicks off expansion



Kylie Horning/Willow Wisp Photography

Event organizers were, left to right, Noelle Lund, Amber Hill, Kurtis Birdeno, Mark Kujala, Michelle Murray, Alliah Wilson and Kierstin Baughman.

Continued from Page 1

ate food prepared by the hospital's Nutrition Services Department.

"I am always amazed by the incredible level of generosity in this community and from our supporters," Thorsen said. "We live and work in a special place, and CMH is honored and grateful for this support."

Those kick-starting the fundraiser were former CMH Board Chair Constance Waisanen, \$100,000; the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, \$25,000; and the Jordan Poyer Foundation, \$10,000.

Poyer also donated an autographed jersey and helmet that raised \$14,000.

Trillium: Project under construction

Continued from Page 1

Housing Alternatives, Northwest Oregon Housing Associates (NOHA), Emmons Design, Clatsop County, and the city of Warrenton. Walsh Construction of Portland is primary contractor.

"There's a lot of state financing coming in to make it happen," Emmons said. "I can't speak more highly about this team. Walsh has been really working to give as much work as possible to local contractors. We're going to get 42 families housed."

Emmons, an advocate for affordable housing as well as hous-

ing for the homeless, also worked on housing proposal at Heritage Square in downtown Astoria. The project would have put 33 microunits and 64 apartments downtown, but it was rejected last month by the Astoria City Council.

"It was a great opportunity, and we had a few people who were just adamant about not doing anything there," he said. "There's a huge need for housing and everybody's complaining about homelessness. We come up with a solution and it's turned down. So, kudos to Warrenton for helping with affordable housing."

Every community in the county is housing-challenged, he said. Rent is high and few units are available. Businesses are begging for affordable housing for workers.

"Trillium didn't have that opposition in any way, shape, or form," Emmons said of the not-in-my-backyard resistance to low-income housing. "I really appreciate the city of Warrenton. They were good to work with. They saw the need. They saw it as a benefit to local businesses. They were very supportive of our project. The community was as well."

Trillium's apartments will be small, but serviceable. A one-bedroom is 600 square feet, with two- and three-bedroom units at 800 and 1,000 square feet. NOHA will own the project and rent to families and individuals most at need at a discounted rate.

A playground, community garden, and community room will support families and children.

Keeping construction costs down was a challenge due to supply chain issues and labor, Emmons said, but costs are now set and a pad for the foundation and first floor near completion. The project is expected to be finished by early summer 2023.

"We're kicking off Chelsea Gardens. We're the first project in there," Emmons said. "We're getting in a lot of infrastructure that's going to help get other projects in there as well."

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