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Media Advisory



Local builders come together to build sleeping pods for homeless women

Pod Build Challenge event to benefit Kenton Women's Village brings together public and private partners

March 29, 2019 (Portland, OR) – Twenty-one build teams from the residential and commercial building communities are working together to build new sleeping pods for homeless women at the Kenton Women's Village in North Portland. Catholic Charities, in partnership with Andersen Construction Foundation, PSU Center for Public Interest Design, Joint Office of Homeless Services, SRG Partnership, Home Builders Foundation, Home Builders Association, Kenton Neighborhood Association, LMC Construction and others, organized a Pod Build Challenge where volunteer build teams donate labor and materials to build one of three sleeping pod designs created by local architecture firms.

The Pod Build Challenge Community Day and Celebration will bring together all of the build teams who will be putting final touches on their pods to compete in a friendly competition in several categories, including "Best Innovative Use of Materials" and "Best in Show". Judges will include current residents of the Village. Program will include speakers, judging and awards.

- What:** Pod Build Challenge Community Day and Celebration
- When:** Friday, April 5 at 8:00am- 2:00pm (Program and speakers from 1:00-2:00pm, earlier to view the build crews in action)
- Where:** Kenton Women's Village- 2420 N. Columbia Blvd (extra parking at 2310 N. Argyle)
- Who:** Rick Birkel, Catholic Charities, Executive Director
Deborah Kamprath, Catholic Charities, Project Manager
Brenda Ketah, Home Builders Foundation, Executive Director
Maddy Stolowitz, Andersen Construction Foundation
Marc Jolin, Joint Office of Homeless Services
Seraphie Allen, Policy Advisor and Community Liaison to Mayor Wheeler
Scott Mooney and Eric Wilson, SRG Partnership
Todd Ferry, PSU Center for Public Interest Design
Kenton Neighborhood Association

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Visuals: Pod Build Challenge competition, teams will be finishing construction, City officials, Kenton Women's Village residents, awards, team t-shirts

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About the Kenton Women's Village

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Kenton Women's Village is a creative and collaborative project offering a new approach to addressing houselessness. Villagers, with supportive services offered by Catholic Charities, are empowered, have a sense of purpose, and are daily taking steps to move into their own permanent housing.

Catholic Charities

Since 1933, Catholic Charities in Oregon has been bringing hope, resources and advocacy to the poorest and most vulnerable throughout the state, regardless of faith, race or condition in life. The organization serves as the professional social service arm of the Archdiocese of Portland, yet is funded completely through grants and donations. For more information call (503) 231-4866, or go to www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org.