

New Brunswick housing project nears full financing with \$2.4 million grant

By Bob Makin
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NEW BRUNSWICK — Dina's Dwellings, the \$3.4 million housing project for victims of domestic violence, came a large step closer to full financing with a \$2.4 million grant from the state Housing Mortgage and Finance Authority.

The funds come exactly one month after the project was awarded \$604,385 in HOME funds from the city.

The Town Clock Community Development Corp. project will transform a portion of the sanctuary of the historic First Reformed Church into 10 homes for female victims of domestic violence and their children.

"Dina's Dwellings will provide much-needed affordable housing for victims of domestic violence," said Susan Kramer-Mills, executive director of Town Clock Community Development Corp. "We are thrilled to be able to put the underused space of the First Reformed Church to such a good cause. None of this would be possible without the funding from HMFA."

The project also has re-

ceived funding from Bergen County United Way, New Jersey Historic Trust, Johnson & Johnson Volunteer Grant and private donations. Ground-breaking is planned for early September.

A smaller sanctuary space will be constructed for church services, as well as a meeting room available for community use. Dina's Dwellings is named for Dina Van Bergh, the wife of the founding pastor of the 202-year-old church.

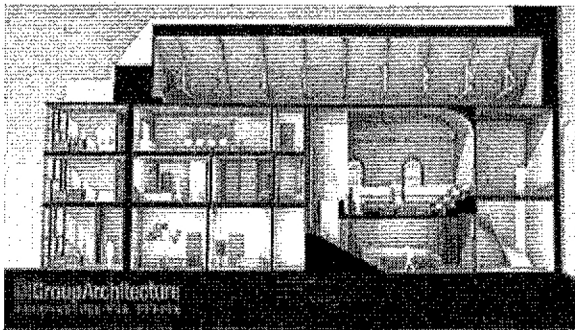
"The city of New Brunswick is proud to support Dina's Dwellings and will continue to make supportive, affordable shelter available to as many residents as possi-

ble," Mayor Jim Cahill said. "Congratulations to the First Reformed Church on the latest milestone in this innovative and important project."

Tenants will pay about one-quarter of their rent, with the rest to be provided by federal Department of Housing and Urban Development housing vouchers, authorities said.

As they work toward a new life, all tenants will be referred to social-service organizations throughout the area. They will be permitted to stay as long as needed, authorities said.

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With \$3 million in state and city funds contributed in one month, Dina's Dwellings, the \$3.4 million New Brunswick housing project for domestic violence victims and their children, is close to full financing. FILE PHOTO

