

Pahokee's McClure Village – New and Improved Thanks to Infusion of Federal Funds



On November 6, Palm Beach County, developer Housing Trust Group, LLC, and the Pahokee Housing Authority hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the construction of new housing units and the completion of hurricane-hardening improvements at McClure Village, an affordable housing community in Pahokee. The “standing room only” crowd included Pahokee Mayor Walkes and members of the city commission, Fred Pinto, aide to County Commissioner Jess Santamaria, Assistant County Administrator Shannon LaRocque, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Miami Field Office Director Armando Fana, and U.S. Congressman Alcee Hastings.

Hurricane Wilma left a lasting impression on the residents of McClure Village when it whipped through Palm Beach County in 2005. Homes in the multi-family rental community located on Eisenhower Road were severely damaged and either needed extensive repairs or complete reconstruction. The economic downturn that followed slowed efforts to make the repairs, and as time went on, conditions deteriorated further. Now, thanks to more than \$5.1 million provided by Palm Beach County through the federal Disaster Recovery Initiative Program (DRI) and Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 (NSP3), the complex has been restored to excellent condition and is a place its residents are proud to call home.



Under the DRI program, the Pahokee Housing Authority, which owns and manages the community, received \$1.28 million for hurricane-hardening improvements in a majority of the units, including impact-resistant windows and doors, asbestos removal and redesign of porch roofs, and exterior painting. In addition, \$2.4 million in DRI dollars was allocated for new construction of 11 units. Housing Trust Group, LLC was awarded \$1.5 million in NSP3 dollars to construct another five (5) units. The contractor for the 16 new units was Lutz Builders, Inc., a Belle Glade company.

McClure Village serves a critical need for low-income housing in the Glades region. With the completed improvements the community has been given a whole new look, and for the residents – a better outlook.



Before



After