



**Public Affairs
Department**

P.O. Box 1989
West Palm Beach, FL
33402-1989
(561) 355-2754
FAX: (561) 355-3819
<http://www.pbcgov.com>



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County Officials Celebrate Completion of Mathis Place Project

The Board of County Commissioners and Neighborhood Renaissance, Inc. (NR) hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 4 at 4509 Mathis Street in suburban Lake Worth to celebrate the completed renovation of a nine-unit multifamily complex located in the urban redevelopment area.

The \$1 million infill housing project was funded by Palm Beach

County through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Neighborhood Stabilization Program 2 (NSP2) and is one of 70 foreclosed properties that were acquired and rehabilitated by Neighborhood Renaissance in partnership with the County's Department of Economic Sustainability (DES). A total of \$12 million was awarded to the nonprofit development corporation under the Residential Redevelopment Grant Program component to purchase and rehabilitate or redevelop vacant, abandoned and foreclosed residential properties to sell or rent.

The extensive renovations constructed at the Mathis Place units include energy-efficient appliances and hurricane hardening improvements. Some of the units are reserved for occupancy by households earning no more than 50 percent of area median income (AMI), with the remaining units available to households earning no more than 120 percent of AMI. HUD has determined that the county's AMI is \$64,600 for a family of four.

The goals of the NSP2 program are to help revitalize older urban communities hard hit by the economic and foreclosure crisis. Through the NSP2 award, Neighborhood Renaissance launched its "Working Your Way Home" program to help provide low- and moderate-income families access to quality rental homes within their financial reach. Additional project partners include Wells Fargo Bank, the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, and Florida Community Loan Fund.



(l-r) Future tenants Cherley Cherizard and Karen Kirkwood, NR President Carl Flick, County Vice Mayor Priscilla A. Taylor, Wells Fargo Regional President Frank Newman, Community Foundation representative Daryl Houston, HUD Miami Field Office Director Armando Fana, future tenant Drekyra Collins, NR Executive Director Terri Murray, DES Director Edward Lowery, and Dan Liftman, aide to U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings.

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