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Avesta Housing celebrates 26 new affordable homes for 55+ Meadowview II expands campus for older adults in Gray

GRAY, Maine — Avesta Housing, the largest nonprofit affordable housing provider in northern New England, celebrated the grand opening of **Meadowview II**, a new affordable housing development for people ages 55 and older in Gray, on Oct. 8. An expansion of Avesta's Meadowview campus, Meadowview II provides 26 one-and two-bedroom apartments for lower-income older adults.

The two-story building features a state-of-the art sustainable design that reduces energy costs and offers two community rooms for residents. It is surrounded by woodlands while located within walking distance of restaurants, shopping and public services in the town center of Gray.

Guest speakers at the grand opening included **Senate Majority Leader Teresa Pierce** (D-Cumberland), state **Rep. Anne Graham** (D-North Yarmouth) and **Gray Town Councilor Anne Gass**.

"We need housing everywhere in all shapes and sizes, and it's incumbent upon all of our communities to take a role in that," said Pierce, whose Senate district includes Gray. "I couldn't be more proud of one of my communities for standing up, doing something, and getting something built. ... It makes me really excited for the future."

Norma, 82, one of the first residents to move into Meadowview II after it opened in February, spoke about how Avesta provided her with a safe, quality, affordable place to live near her family when she could no longer afford the rent on her apartment in Westbrook.

"I feel very fortunate to be here," Norma said. "Please keep investing in Avesta."

Avesta Housing has been providing affordable housing in Gray since 1974, when it served as a development consultant for and managed the original Meadowview, 20 affordable, garden-style apartments for ages 62 and older. Avesta assumed ownership of Meadowview from Gray Senior Housing in 2020 and purchased an adjacent 7-acre parcel two years later to build Meadowview II, which was developed in partnership with architect JSA Design of Portsmouth, N.H., and builder Optimum Construction Co. of South Portland.

In her closing remarks, Avesta Housing **President & CEO Jennifer Hawkins** said that there is much more work to be done to address the affordable housing shortage but emphasized that Avesta Housing is

tackling the task head-on with more than 1,000 affordable homes in its development pipeline, representing a total of \$420 million in construction across 12 municipalities.

“We will continue to collaborate with individuals and organizations throughout Maine and New Hampshire to meet community housing needs,” Hawkins said. “Together, we can work to ensure that everyone has a place to call home.”

PHOTOS

1. Avesta Housing President & CEO Jennifer Hawkins addresses the audience on Oct. 8 during a grand opening celebration for Meadowview II, a new affordable housing development for older adults in Gray, Maine.
2. Maine Rep. Anne Graham and Gray Town Councilor Anne Gass (second and third from right) talk to a resident in her apartment at Meadowview II, a new affordable housing development for older adults in Gray, Maine.
3. The front of Meadowview II, a new affordable housing development for older adults in Gray, Maine.

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About Avesta Housing

Avesta Housing is a nonprofit affordable housing provider with more than 50 years of experience as a leader in affordable housing development and property management in Maine and New Hampshire. The organization is headquartered in Portland, Maine, and operates 100 affordable properties, more than 3,000 apartments and two assisted living facilities, providing safe, affordable homes for more than 4,000 people every day. An additional 1,100 new homes are in the development pipeline. Avesta was named a Best Place to Work in Maine in 2024 and 2025. Avesta’s mission is to improve lives and strengthen communities by promoting and providing quality affordable homes for people in need.

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