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St. Vincent's plans transitional housing

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Construction is under way for a

28-unit apartment building in east Reno to help homeless people make the transition back to society.

Catholic Community Services of Northern Nevada said St. Vincent's Residence, being built by Q&D Construction, will be ready for occupancy in October. It's located at 387 Gould St., near the Ronald McDonald House, east of Renown Regional Medical Center.

The project, agency Director Michael Ford said, "will add to the inventory of safe, affordable housing for low-income individuals, for which there is a desperate need in our community."

A dilapidated 50-year-old building that had served transients was demolished to make room for the new building, Ford said. Including a newer building on the campus and an older building that has been kept up, the complex will have a total of 45 housing units, a net gain of nine units.

"We look forward to a revitalized St. Vincent's Residence, serving another generation of individuals who need help turning their lives around so they can stand on their own again."

All three buildings will be painted green to create a common theme, and the new three-story building will have a stucco exterior. It also will include an elevator.

Designed by Reno architects Sheehan VanWoert Bigotti, the building will have high-efficiency appliances, individual kitchens and bathrooms. It replaces units that had shared kitchens, baths and living areas.

Catholic services has raised more than \$1.6 million for the \$2.6 million project and is working to raise more donations to avoid drawing on agency funds, Ford said.

In four years of planning, Ford said they overcame a major obstacle to get direct access for fire trucks on hospital grounds.

"We are grateful for the close cooperation of the city of Reno and Renown Health," Ford said.

The project received \$1.2 million in funding from the Washoe County HOME Consortium, \$325,000 in affordable housing funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank and \$50,000 in state funds.

With these funds, there will be maximum income limits for tenants. Monthly rents will range from \$370 to \$480 a month. Catholic Community Services will announce when applicants will be sought.
