For Immediate Release

**Caritas of Austin opens Espero Rutland to Help House Those Experiencing Homelessness**

*The new supportive housing development will provide 171 units with on-site services*

**Austin, TX** - The grand opening of Caritas of Austin’s first housing development to build well-being for our unhoused neighbors was celebrated today with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The development named Espero Rutland is a collaborative effort between the city government, non-profit organizations, and private businesses.

Espero, meaning “I hope,” is a multi-story building with 171 studio apartments that adapt to personal preferences, soothing indoor and outdoor amenities, and on-site supportive services for residents exiting homelessness.

On-site services include:

* Caritas of Austin will provide evidence-based social support to all residents of Espero.
* Residents will receive personalized support in housing, education, employment, food, and connection to mental and physical health services.
* Case managers will work alongside peer support specialists who have experienced homelessness, PTSD, substance use, or other shared experiences to provide an additional layer of support.
* Residents will have 24/7 access to on-site Community Access and Support.

“We are thrilled to see the grand opening of Espero Rutland, which will provide much-needed affordable housing for our unhoused neighbors and help address the growing issue of homelessness in our community,” said Jo Kathryn Quinn, President & CEO of Caritas of Austin. “Homelessness is a complex issue, and there is no single solution. But we also know that housing is the critical first step in helping people rebuild their well-being.”

The development was made possible through the collaboration of Caritas of Austin, Vecino Group, Aetna, a CVS Health company, Austin Housing Finance Corporation, Austin Public Health, Boston Financial Investment Management, Citi Community Capital, and the Housing Authority of the City of Austin.

“Espero Rutland is an excellent example of what can happen when the public and private sectors work together for the greater good,” said Rick Manzardo, CEO of Vecino Group. “We are proud to be part of this initiative and hope this development will serve as a model for other communities to follow.”

“An individual’s overall health and wellbeing are highly correlated to having a secure place to live,” said Simone Simon Gardner, Lead Director, Sr. Community Affairs Lead, Aetna, a CVS Health company. “While we know it is imperative to create safe, high-quality affordable housing, especially in the city of Austin, the focus on food security, employment opportunities, and case management at Espero will further empower residents facing extremely difficult circumstances towards living healthier, successful lives.”

“We believe that every person deserves a place to call home and the opportunity to rebuild their lives, and Espero Rutland is a significant step towards realizing that vision," said David Gray, City of Austin’s Homeless Strategy Officer. "More than a building, Espero is a symbol of hope, compassion, and the resilience of our community. We are grateful for our partners’ collaborative spirit as we strive to make a lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most.”

Espero Rutland is already accepting applications and moving in individuals experiencing homelessness. The grand opening of Espero Rutland marks a significant milestone in Caritas of Austin’s efforts to address homelessness.

For more information about Espero Rutland, please visit [www.EsperoRutland.com](http://www.esperorutland.com).

**About Caritas of Austin**Caritas of Austin believes that when every person has a stable place to call home, they can realize their full potential and contribute to our community. We build well-being by making sure that people have safe places to live, access to healthy groceries, jobs that provide a reliable living wage, and the opportunity to learn life skills. Together, our professional staff partners with clients to construct a strong foundation and a community of ongoing support so that they can withstand the life storms that affect all of us, such as an unexpected job loss or a family illness. Our innovative, personalized, and proven approach to building well-being creates a more vibrant Austin for all.

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