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Housing Trust of Benzie to Build Four New Homes in Frankfort

New Name, New Look, Continued Commitment to Community

Frankfort, MI — June 4, 2025 — The Housing Trust of Benzie (formerly the Frankfort Area Community Land Trust) is excited to announce its next housing project: four new cottage-style homes will be constructed at the corner of 9th Street and Corning Avenue in the City of Frankfort.

The nearly half-acre site, located across the street from the Family of Faith Nazarene Church, will feature four single-family homes designed to fit seamlessly into the surrounding neighborhood. Each home, just under 1,000 square feet, includes an attached garage and access to shared green space to support a sense of community.

The land was secured through a purchase agreement with the Family of Faith Nazarene Church, and proceeds from the sale will be used for building improvements to the church and parsonage. Two parcels will be redrawn to separate the church's parsonage from the new development. This marks the organization's second housing initiative, expanding its impact on community-owned housing in Benzie County.

Construction is scheduled to begin this fall, with the homes available for sale by spring 2026. The Housing Trust will partner with Weaver Barns and a team of local contractors and tradespeople to bring the project to life.

The goal is to price each home below \$200,000, with final pricing to be determined. To make this possible, the Housing Trust is actively seeking grant funding and philanthropic support to close an estimated \$50,000-per-home funding gap between development costs and attainable pricing for residents.

“This is exactly the kind of project we envisioned when we began this work—right-sized, well-located, quality-built homes for people who live and/or work in Benzie County to put down or deepen roots,” said Jay White, Board President. “With our first four homes on Grove Place now filled with homeowners, we are eager to continue building a more sustainable community, one house at a time.”

These homes are specially priced for working individuals and families whose incomes fall between 60 and 120 percent of Benzie County’s Area Median Income (AMI), and who are employed in or relocating to Benzie County for work.

In addition to launching this new project, the organization is unveiling a refreshed name and visual identity. Now known as the Housing Trust of Benzie, the nonprofit remains committed to its founding mission while signaling a broader, countywide reach.

The new brand was developed in partnership with Solita Art + Design, owned by Kelley DeVine. “The design is fresh, forward-looking, and respectful of our beginnings,” said board member Tim Jones, who co-chaired the rebranding committee alongside Kaitlin Matesich. “We think it hits the perfect note as we grow into this next phase of impact.”

To learn more, visit www.frankfortlandtrust.org or contact Tim Jones at 323-244-0448 or timljones723@gmail.com.



HOUSING TRUST OF BENZIE