



**For Immediate Release**

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, THE STEP-UP APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE AND CARLISLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP LAUNCH A COMMUNITY GARDEN AT DIXIE COURT APARTMENTS**

*INAUGURAL PLANTING WITH RESIDENTS HELD  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17*

**Miami, FL - Friday, September 17** - Affordable housing developer, Carlisle Development Group, in partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale, and its Step-Up Apprenticeship Initiative, hosted the inaugural planting of a Community Garden today at Dixie Court Apartments, a 254-unit affordable housing community.

The Community Garden at Dixie Court was built by the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale's Step-Up apprentices and features 18 raised garden beds and trellises designed to be multi-level to accommodate adults, children and residents needing wheelchair access. Resident volunteers planted heirloom tomatoes, squash, and okra among other vegetables and will maintain the garden throughout the year. All aspects of the project are self-governed by local residents including watering, fertilizing, maintaining the beds and selecting the vegetables to be grown in the upcoming season. Oversight will be provided by a local, urban sustainable food producer to ensure proper care and maintenance as well as the long-term success of the program.

The purpose of the Community Garden is to provide residents with the numerous physical and social benefits of local food production. Community Gardens improve the quality of life for those who participate by stimulating social interaction, encouraging self-reliance, providing nutritious food, reducing family food budgets, and fostering opportunities for inter-generational and cross-cultural connections.

As co-developers of Dixie Court, Carlisle Development Group and the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale have launched this initiative as a pilot program. The project will serve as a model for future, larger-scale Community Gardens planned for other communities built and managed by the joint development team.

The mission of the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Lauderdale (HACFL) is to assist low-income families with safe, decent and affordable housing opportunities as they strive to achieve self-sufficiency and improve their lives. The Step-Up Apprenticeship Initiative of the HACFL provides low-income residents access to education, job skills, and employment opportunities while working to rehabilitate the community's housing stock. Many of the apprentices are between the ages of 18 to 30 years of age. For more information, visit [www.hacfl.com](http://www.hacfl.com).

Carlisle Development Group is the largest affordable housing real estate developer in Florida and the sixth largest in the nation. Founded in 1998, Carlisle Development Group is a fully integrated real estate company that has developed, leased and managed developments throughout Florida totaling over

7,000 residential units and more than half a billion dollars in total development costs. For more information, visit [www.carlisledevelopmentgroup.com](http://www.carlisledevelopmentgroup.com).

For more information, call 305.476.8118.