



THE MONTROSE CENTER RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION FROM KINDER FOUNDATION TO ESTABLISH SENIOR HOUSING COMPLEX IN THIRD WARD

The independent living center will provide affordable housing to LGBTQ-affirming seniors by 2020

HOUSTON – (August 6, 2019) – The Montrose Center, a Houston-based nonprofit empowering LGBTQ individuals to enjoy healthier and more fulfilling lives, announced today the receipt of a transformational \$1.5 million gift from the Kinder Foundation to establish an affordable senior independent living center at 2222 Cleburne Street in Houston’s Third Ward. The grant is the largest philanthropic gift made to support the new complex.

The center, which broke ground on August 6, 2019, is slated for completion in 2020. It will feature 112 one- and two-bedroom apartments for low income seniors ages 62 or older. Eligible seniors will pay no more than 30 percent of their income for rent.

“We are grateful to the Kinder Foundation for their support of our vision that seniors will be able to age with dignity and pride in a stable and safe community, with access to specialized services and support,” said Ann Robison, PhD, Executive Director with the Montrose Center.

“All people, regardless of age, sexual orientation, or location deserve to have their basic needs met in an affordable, supportive environment,” said Nancy Kinder, president of the Kinder Foundation. “We are proud to reinforce our commitment to the Third Ward, its residents, and these quality of life issues by helping establish an independent senior living facility in the neighborhood.”

The LGBTQ-affirming center will offer on-site primary medical care, job resources and skills training, advocacy and service linkage, wellness programs, educational programs, social opportunities, shuttle service, and congregate meals.

[According to the National Coalition for the Homeless](#), there are at least nine seniors waiting for one occupied unit of affordable elderly housing nationwide. In the Third Ward in particular, the rise of gentrification has left few options for those seeking to downsize and remain independent.

Additionally, with no fresh food markets or commercial grocery stores, the Third Ward is classified as a “food desert.” The senior living center will both provide affordable meals to seniors in its care, and also increase the area’s population density to attract resources which will benefit the community at large.

The development of the senior living facility is supported by the Montrose Center’s “There’s No Place Like Home” campaign, launched in 2016 and led by honorary campaign co-chairs then-Mayor Annise Parker and State Representative Garnet Coleman. The Kinder Foundation’s \$1.5



million gift, alongside grants from the Hollyfield Foundation and the LTR Lewis Cloverdale Foundation, Inc., have contributed toward the \$5 million in community funds raised to-date. An additional \$2.5 million is needed to complete the project.

Further support has been provided by The Midtown Redevelopment Authority, which donated the land at 2222 Cleburne Street; the City of Houston, which contributed \$5.1 million through its Housing and Community Development Department; Low Income Houston Tax Credits (LIHTC), which contributed an estimated \$13.8 million through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs; BBVA, which provided a construction and permanent loan; and investor National Equity Fund.

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THE MONTROSE CENTER

Established in 1978 as a safe and affirming place for lesbian and gay Houstonians to receive counseling, the Montrose Center has emerged as one of the nation's leading full-service LGBTQ centers. Although counseling remains at the heart of what we do, services have expanded to meet the changing needs of our diverse community. These services include substance use disorder treatment, support and advocacy for LGBTQ survivors of violent crimes, care and assistance for people living with HIV, free community wellness programs and activities, and programs for our community's most vulnerable and isolated—youth and seniors. We sit at the center of the LGBTQ community and serve as a gathering place for LGBTQ organizations and groups. The Montrose Center is a United Way Agency.

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