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Apartments in Morristown opened for 4 previously homeless people

By **MICHAEL DAIGLE** · STAFF WRITER · January 29, 2011

MORRISTOWN — The town's latest energy-efficient home was opened Friday, an **affordable** four-bedroom home that will provide shelter for individuals who have been homeless or are emerging from homelessness.

The Harrison Street home, built in 1900 and known as The Point, was developed by Homeless Solutions Inc., the nonprofit agency that provides services ranging from emergency shelters to transitional housing for Morris County's needy.

Elizabeth Hall, president and chief executive officer of the agency, said the home is the 39th affordable unit it has developed over the past decade.

"It is a measure of the need for affordable housing," she said.

Dan McGuire, director of Headquarters Development, the division of Homeless Solutions that develops housing, said it's the fifth energy-efficient home developed in recent years by his agency.

The Point features a gas fired boiler rated at 95 percent **efficiency**, two roof-mounted solar panels to supplement the hot water systems, radiant heat installed under bamboo floors and other energy-saving appliances.

Tenant Jennifer Blanchard, a Morristown resident who has been sleeping on a relative's couch, found out the relatives would be moving in February, which would leave her homeless.

Having her application for an apartment accepted will allow her to focus on her **education**, she said.

Morristown Mayor Tim Dougherty said the redevelopment of The Point represents "what we stand for. Having a place to live is what is best for a family and the neighborhood."

Harrison Street is in an older section of Morristown in a neighborhood of narrow streets and neat

homes. McGuire said the agency purchased the house from an estate sale and was determined to make sure the renovated home **enhanced** the neighborhood.

Sitting on a diagonal corner lot formed by the intersection of Harrison and Grant streets, the home is in a **prominent** location in the neighborhood. Morristown Councilwoman Rebecca Feldman said its renovation is the type of activity that can spark the revival of a neighborhood.

Qualified tenants will have incomes between \$12,000 and \$24,000 and will pay 30 percent of their adjusted household **income** in rent.

Funding for the project was supplied by the state's Special Needs Housing Trust Fund, operated by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, Morris County Division of Community Development, F.M. Kirby **Workforce** Housing Fund, Millington Baptist Church and Valley National and Federal Home banks. Construction partner was Jaeger Lumber.

Michael Daigle: 973-267-7947; mdaigle@gannett.com.

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Homeless Solutions opened a home at 37 Harrison St. in Morristown with four apartments for previously homeless individuals. (Staff photo: John Bell)

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