



# NEWS

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## THE DWELLINGS WELCOMES NEWEST RESIDENTS *Tallahassee's tiny home community doubles occupancy*

**[Tallahassee, Fla]** The Dwellings, Tallahassee's only tiny home community, welcomed 12 new residents to the community in January. Marking the completion of the next dozen houses, this addition doubles the occupancy of The Dwellings which opened doors to the first residents just last month. According to the property's Director, the wait list for the next set of homes continues to grow, underscoring the critical need for low-barrier housing in Florida's capital city.

"Less than 60 days after our grand opening, all of our completed homes are filled, and we have people signed up for each of the next 11 homes we anticipate opening in March," said John Schmidt, The Dwellings Director. "We even have folks signed up for homes that won't be ready until May. Our residents represent all walks of life. They are veterans, single mothers working in local government, retired school teachers, motivational speakers, blue collar workers and a pilot. They are all good people who simply do not have the needed \$1,500 it takes to move into a traditional rental here in Tallahassee."

The Dwellings, by design, works to provide those with barriers to housing a place to call home. Rent is \$850 per month for the largest model, and rent includes utilities. However, there are no up-front fees or required deposits, which makes these homes accessible to those without substantial cash savings. Each tiny house is completely unique and fully equipped with smart technology including smart meters, fiber optic internet and smart televisions. To help foster a

true sense of community, every house has a front porch to encourage neighborly conversation and bonding. For Schmidt, this sense of community is one of the best parts of The Dwellings.

“Our residents are invested in each other and in the community,” he said. “They see their neighbors need help, and they lend a hand without question. We even had one of our first residents helping assemble furniture in the homes of our second group of residents because she knows how badly folks are ready to have a place to call their own. It’s a very powerful thing to be a part of.”

This high-tech, low-barrier housing model is the first of its kind in the nation and is a program of CESC, Inc., a Tallahassee-based nonprofit committed to ensuring homelessness in the region is rare, brief and nonrecurring. For more information about the community, please visit [TheDwellings.org](http://TheDwellings.org) or call John Schmidt at 850-508-4561.

### **About The Dwellings**

The Dwellings is a subsidiary of CESC, Inc., a nonprofit committed to ensuring that homelessness in the Big Bend region is rare, brief and non-recurring. Constructed to accommodate those who are financially, socially or institutionally disadvantaged, The Dwellings provides beautifully crafted tiny homes with high-tech amenities. The community offers an array of on-site amenities designed to provide residents with new ways of receiving assistance and support, access to advanced technology and pride in a space to call their own.

### **About CESC, Inc.**

Connecting Everyone with Second Changes (CESC) was founded with the goal of ending homelessness. The organization works to create a network to assist individuals experiencing homelessness in Tallahassee by providing resources including emergency shelter, support services and long-term housing. CESC works to foster a culture and community of individuals and businesses who combine resources in order to ensure that when homelessness in Tallahassee does occur, it is rare, brief and non-recurring. For more information about CESC or their family of brands including Westgate, The Kearney Center and The Dwellings, please visit [cesctlh.org](http://cesctlh.org).

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