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## FLORIDA PHILANTHROPIST CREATES UNPRECEDENTED HOUSING CONCEPT FOR DISADVANTAGED

BUILDS THE NATION'S LARGEST TINY HOME COMMUNITY OFFERING A SUSTAINABLE HOUSING  
SOLUTION

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – April 4, 2019 – With not enough solutions in place to meet the needs of our most vulnerable population, a Tallahassee philanthropist, Rick Kearney, has envisioned and funded the **first tiny home community in the U.S. to offer a sustainable housing solution** for individuals who are financially, socially, or institutionally disadvantaged. Through the non-profit, Connecting Everyone with Second Chances (CESC), The Dwellings, is a new, low-barrier tiny house community providing a comprehensive approach to ensuring that disadvantaged people are not condemned to dangerous and substandard housing, which is often their only option.

Helping people with a holistic approach, The Dwellings, provides participants with on-site case management, job placement, and even medical and dental care, in an effort for its participants to achieve independence and stability. The Dwellings has partnerships with approximately 40 social service agencies in Tallahassee and case managers provide referrals and recommendations for participants on a variety of services, such as transportation, mental health, substance abuse and crisis intervention.

Providing the critical need for low-cost, low-barrier housing, The Dwellings, or any of CESC's housing offerings, does not require a credit check, as residents may have poor credit or an eviction history which can bar someone from traditional housing, especially clean, safe housing. According to John Schmidt, The Dwellings' Director, "The Dwellings can help people such as a veterans and senior citizens with limited incomes, single parents, individuals recovering from health issues and even part-time college students, without the savings to put down first and last month's rent. Many times, these good folks get stuck in high crime areas because it's their only option."

Cottage-like homes feature the highest-quality construction integrated with technology such as smart meters to monitor utility consumption, smart HD TVs, solar-power, smart lighting, electric door locks, fans, and air conditioning units; even their own TV network with 17 over-the-air channels via fiber optic internet. Each home is equipped with an

Amazon Echo which will allow participants to ask “Alexa” to set room temperature, lock the door, re-order medication, call for transportation, get immediate help and more.

Amenities at The Dwellings include a greenhouse where participants are encouraged to help grow vegetables, an arts center with 12 screen TV wall, a complete woodshop, and even a high-tech, cashless laundry facility. The dining hall, resembling a mountain ski lodge, serves 2-3 meals/day (included in residents monthly fee), a general store, outdoor stone firepit, and walking trails. Daily Community Center programs include financial planning, wellness, counseling and general community building through organized recreation. This innovative approach provides participants with the tools to grow and become self-sustaining, while being part of a healthy society of friends and neighbors.

“We want to ensure program participants continue to grow and maintain success and provide access to community services such as laundry facilities, indoor/outdoor gathering spaces, healthy dining options and more,” said Monique Ellsworth, CEO of CESC. “We look to provide more than 130 housing units with a low carbon footprint, high-tech benefits and access to resources all in one location.”

With 89 homes finished and occupied, The Dwellings is projected to add 41 more homes, for a total of 130 by the end of 2019.

### **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 participants 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) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization 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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