

# Aeon dedicates Alliance Addition apartments

BY SCOTT CARLSON

Staff Writer

Minneapolis civic and public leaders gathered Monday to celebrate the grand opening of a \$10 million housing development, which will provide 61 apartment units for formerly homeless people, in the city's Elliot Park neighborhood.

The Alliance Addition — built by Aeon, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit developer of high-quality affordable housing — consists of 51 newly built apartment homes and 10 units in a previously vacant and boarded-up building.

Located on 16th Street between Park and Chicago avenues, the Alliance Addition “will make a huge impact on the people who live there” Aeon CEO Alan Arthur said at the event. “We are going to reclaim this com-

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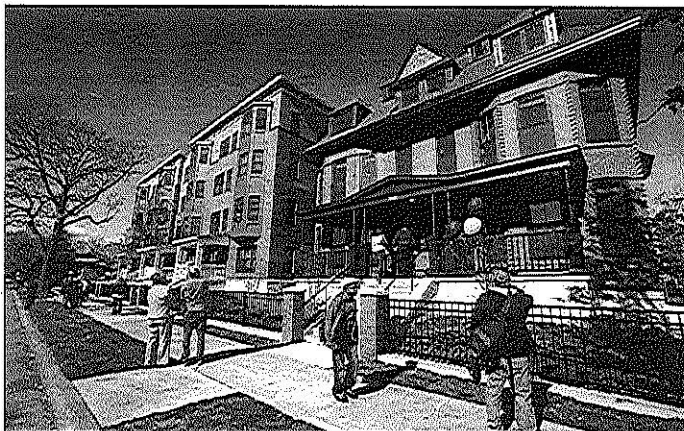
— Alan Arthur, CEO, Aeon

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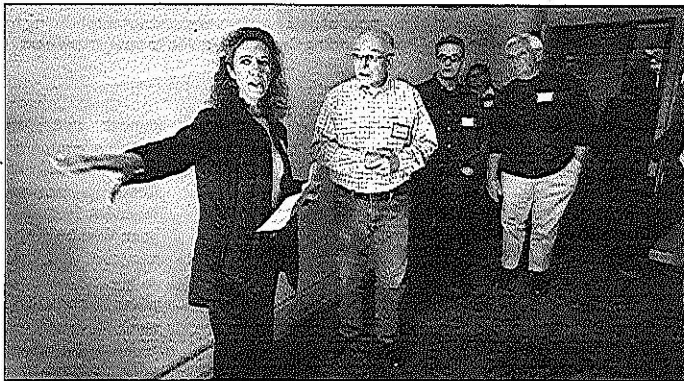
The Alliance Addition follows Aeon's construction of 124 units in the late 1990s in the same Elliot Park location that were erected for single adult men and women who have faced chemical addiction problems and want to remain drug-free.

U.S. Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minnesota, was among the speakers at the opening. He called the completion of Aeon's latest affordable housing project a big step forward for the city.

“This (Elliot Park) neighborhood is getting stronger every day, and this (Alliance



Aeon, a Minneapolis-based non-profit developer of affordable housing, on Monday dedicated its Alliance Addition. The project includes 59 efficiency and two one-bedroom apartment homes. The housing is geared towards serving former homeless people.



Michelle Pribyl, an architect at Cermak Rhoades, led a tour of the new apartments at Aeon's Alliance Addition, which is in Minneapolis' Elliot Park neighborhood. (Staff photos: Bill Klotz)

Addition) housing project is a key component of that,” Ellison told the gathering of more than 100 people.

Artiste Mayfield, 45, of Minneapolis, told the crowd that being a resident of the Alliance Apartments for the past two and a half years has been a big plus as she has left behind her former life as a drug addict and prison inmate. With the assistant of resident services at the Alliance Apartments, Mayfield said she is going to school; she is studying social work at Minneapolis Community Technical College.

“It makes me feel good when people see my achievements and I want to go forward,” Mayfield said.

Ellison said in the coming year, the U.S. House Financial Services Committee intends to make affordable housing one of its key legislative issues.

“We will talk about not only building new housing” but ensuring that existing affordable housing is in good condition, he said.

Aeon officials said the Alliance Addition is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) project in Minnesota through the mid-rise pilot program that focuses on four- to six-story residential buildings.

Entities and private foundations that helped Aeon finance the Alliance Addition included the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Wells Fargo, the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota Housing, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation and the U.S. Green Building Council.

Other dignitaries speaking at the dedication included Minneapolis City Council member Lisa Goodman, Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman and John Santner, north central director of NeighborWorks America.