



News Release



Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Executive Shapiro and Community Partners Join FI Community Housing to Celebrate the Grand Opening of a New Facility

On October 17, 2017, Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro was joined by the Summit County Land Bank, the City of Akron, The Developmental Disabilities Board, the ADM Board and multiple elected officials as she welcomed FI Community Housing (FICH) to their new location in the City of Akron.

FICH provides drug-free transitional housing and recovery services for men in the Summit County area. In danger of losing their location this spring due to an auction of the building where they were renting, multiple local entities stepped in to assist FICH in their relocation efforts. The Summit County Land Bank purchased 1445 Frederick Boulevard in the City of Akron from the Summit County DD Board. The Frederick property was vacant for several months after having to close its doors last year. With the efforts of Executive Shapiro’s office as well as the Land Bank, the building itself was rehabilitated into a warm and welcoming home, where 16 men at a time will find services to help them transition back into a drug-free, productive life. The project also benefitted from the generous donations of furniture and goods from the University of Akron and the Habitat for Humanity Re-Store. “We must change the narrative on the opiate epidemic and remind people that treatment does work and

people do get better. This collaboration is the best of our community and this facility will be a beacon of hope,” said Executive Shapiro.

FICH founders Denny and Kara Wilson helped cut the ribbon for the building before tours of the new facility took place. “We are so grateful to our community and to the leaders who stepped up, worked together, and helped us find a new home. This new facility will save lives,” said the Wilsons. With the Summit County Land Bank serving as the landlord for the building, Land Bank Executive Director Patrick Bravo acted as emcee for yesterday’s event and stated, “this project illustrates what can be done when visionary leadership and lots of hard work come together. The Land Bank is incredibly proud to be a part of collaborative recovery in Summit County”

Several elected officials from the City of Akron and Summit County were in attendance at the event and Summit County Councilman David Hamilton, who represents the neighborhood where FICH’s new home is located said, “I am proud to be here today on behalf of the community I represent. We support FICH and their mission and I want to say, ‘Welcome home.’”

FICH will officially open its doors at the Frederick Boulevard facility on November 1, 2017.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.ficommunityhousing.org/>



(center 3 people left to right) Craig Stanley Director Summit County Administrative Services, Kara and Denny Wilson, FICH Community Housing