



Charles E. Smith Life Communities

HEBREW HOME OF GREATER WASHINGTON • SMITH-KOGOD & WASSERMAN RESIDENCES

LANDOW HOUSE • RING HOUSE • REVITZ HOUSE • HIRSH HEALTH CENTER

The Charles E. Smith Life Communities requests \$675,000 to make important renovations to **Revitz House**, a HUD-subsidized, independent living facility. Revitz House, which operates under HUD's Section 236 program, is a 266 person low -income, senior independent-living housing facility that provides on-site programming as well as transportation to medical appointments, pharmacies, cultural programs and daily activities off campus. The average age of residents is 89 years old. Revitz House also includes 32 project based HUD Section 8 units, serving seniors meeting the "extremely low" income criteria, with income under \$17,840. There are also twelve residents who are part of the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes program, living in Revitz House and receiving supportive services.

Bessie, a 90 year old resident, lives alone and walks with a walker. She has lived at Revitz House for 9 years. When she arrived, she was mobile, active and able to take care of all of her own needs. Having aged in place at Revitz House, she now is finding some of her daily activities burdensome. Bessie is unable to take her laundry downstairs to the one laundry room in the buildings. She cannot carry the basket and the detergent while navigating the hallways with her mobility aid.

Oscar, 87 years old and in a wheelchair, is in a similar situation. He is unable to open the doors to the trashroom and is forced to leave his garbage outside the door until someone from housekeeping collects it.

Tess, a 14-year resident of Revitz House, is having trouble finding her way to the elevator. Her vision has deteriorated and the poor lighting in the building makes it difficult for her to move about. She has also been turned away from some exercise classes as the functional all-purpose space in the building is not large enough to accommodate all of the residents who would like to attend the programs.

Revitz House is now 34 years old and while the building has been well maintained with routine cosmetic refurbishment and needed capital replacement and repairs, the aging plant has hit a stage requiring more substantial capital repair and replacement to maintain the integrity of the physical structure and address the changing needs of its aging population. The recent capital needs assessment identified a wide range of elements needing replacement at a projected cost of approximately \$8 million. Funding for renovations to the physical environment, improved functionality of the building and for resident programs and services, including infrastructure upgrades to the fire alarm and emergency notification systems, has become a necessity. This project will include more programming spaces, a wellness center, enlarged lobby and waiting areas for the dining room, laundry rooms on each floor, handicapped access trash room doors, updated hallways with improved lighting and a new fire alarm and nurse call system.

The renovation of Revitz House will enable residents to continue to live independent lives for a longer period of time. The planned activities/social hall will hold over 100 people, an increase of 60% over the current capacity. The laundry rooms and trash rooms will be accessible to all residents, and art and activities spaces will be able to accommodate more residents at one time.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas Simmonds, Vice President