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L+M Development Partners and Canaan Baptist Church of Christ Celebrate New Home of Historic Senior Center

L+M providing senior center with new permanent home at 1428 Fifth Avenue after lease expired at former location

New home in 100% affordable senior building includes new kitchen, outdoor space and fully-renovated community room and church offices

New York, NY (April 11, 2019) – L+M Development Partners and the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ today celebrated the opening of a new permanent home for the church’s Canaan Senior Service Center at 1428 Fifth Avenue in Harlem. The Reverend Doctor Thomas D. Johnson, Executive Director of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ, the church’s and senior center’s board of directors and representatives from L+M were joined by local elected officials and dignitaries for a ceremonial ribbon cutting and open house at the new space. The opening of the new home for the historic senior center comes after the center was forced to close in September of 2016 when the lease ended at its former location at 10 Lenox Avenue, leaving it to find temporary space in the years since.

L+M Development Partners agreed to provide new space for the Canaan Senior Service Center upon hearing about the senior center’s dire circumstances. Its new home opens in the community space at L+M’s 1428 Fifth Avenue, a 100% affordable building serving Section 8 residents. The NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA)-funded Canaan Senior Service Center’s new home includes a fully built-out kitchen, outdoor space, community gathering space, a game room and offices for church administrators. L+M completely renovated the space, including the addition of new kitchen appliances, in advance of the senior center moving in.

“When we heard about the senior center’s search for a new home, we immediately thought about how we could be helpful,” said **Ron Moelis, CEO and Founding Partner of L+M Development Partners**. “This is an excellent example of how public, private and non-profit sectors can work together to support the larger community. The Canaan Senior Service Center is a Harlem institution and we hope the seniors enjoy this space as much as we enjoy having them here.”

“The opening of the new Canaan Senior Service Center is a classic example of how the faith community and the private sector can collaborate to improve the quality of living in our community,” said the **Rev. Dr. Thomas Johnson, Pastor at the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ**.

Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in Harlem is pleased to be in partnership with L&M Development for the worthy cause of supporting our senior population.”

The Canaan Senior Service Center was established in 1972 by Canaan Baptist Church of Christ pastor Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker. The center started as a one-day-per-week service for Harlem seniors and initially was fully funded and staffed by volunteers. The church has supported the senior center since 1975, along with core support from the New York City Department for the Aging, and supplemental support from Title V, Eastern Seals and Angel Guardians for the Elderly. Canaan Senior Service Center services include case assistance, entitlements counseling, escort services, shopping assistance, transportation, telephone reassurance calls to the isolated and home bound, friendly visits to the sick and shut-in, and education and recreation for daily participants.

L+M Development Partners is an active member of the Harlem community with support that extends beyond providing quality affordable housing. In addition to support to the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ, L+M supports local organizations through its community investment division, including educational after school programs such as Harlem Lacrosse and Leadership and School in the Square, workforce development programs such as Hot Bread Kitchen and STRIVE-NY, and healthy living programs like Harlem Grown and Little Sisters of the Assumption. L+M has also deliberately focused on providing community-oriented retail and enabling Harlem-based businesses to grow and expand. L+M helped to provide space to Levels Barber Shop, and Healthy Choice grocery following the destruction of its former location during the East Harlem gas explosion and also provides space to the Harlem branch of the NAACP.

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About L+M Development Partners

Since its inception in 1984, L+M Development Partners, Inc. has been an innovator in developing quality affordable, mixed-income and market rate housing, while improving the neighborhoods in which it works. A full-service firm, L+M works from conception to completion, handling development, investment, construction and management with creativity that leads the industry. L+M is responsible for more than \$7 billion in development and investment, and has acquired, built or preserved more than 22,000 high-quality residential units in New York’s tristate area, the West Coast and Gulf Coast regions. L+M is a double bottom line company, where its success is measured not only in financial returns but also by positive impacts. For more information, please visit: <https://lmdevpartners.com/>