Kenton Women’s Village: Learning Lessons

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Why a Pod Village?

Community development opportunities
Incremental transition into permanent housing

Houseless shelters can be chaotic and sometimes not much better than living on the streets. Sleeping pod villages provide opportunities for community development while still allowing privacy and security. The village model provides a more incremental transition into permanent housing from the streets, rather than a sudden transition.
INNOVATIVE LAND USE
Villages are a positive use of underutilized land or land that won’t be developed for a few years.

HAZELNUT GROVE
Hazelnut Grove is located on a narrow stretch of a highway shoulder, owned by ODOT. Due to the uneven terrain and a steep hillside, it is undesirable land for development, which makes it a perfect site for a village.

KENTON WOMEN’S VILLAGE
Kenton Women’s Village is located in an industrial area that is undesirable for development. The site is on city owned property that was previously vacant before the village was built.

AGAPE VILLAGE
Agape village is located on a piece of property owned by Portland Church of the Nazarene. The site used to be a quarry and was vacant until the church and nonprofits decided to build the village.
Kenton Women’s Village 2.0
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KWV 2.0 Phase 2: Sleeping Pods

Andersen Construction Foundation

SRG

Catholic Charities
Providing Help, Creating Hope

Center for Public Interest Design

HBF Home Builders Foundation
• Andersen Construction
• Associated General Contractors Oregon-Columbia Chapter
• BC Custom Construction
• Bremik Construction
  sponsoring Constructing Hope
• Builders FirstSource
• DR Horton
• Lease Crutcher Lewis
• Legend Homes
  sponsoring Professional Women in Building
• LMC Construction
• Lovett Deconstruction

• O’Neill/Walsh Community Builders
• P&C Construction
• R&H Construction
• The ReBuilding Center
• Skanska
• Stephens Homes
  sponsoring Professional Women in Building
• Turner Construction Company

KENTON WOMEN’S VILLAGE POD BUILD CHALLENGE
What are the impacts of Villages?

How can we make Villages better?
Who lives in Kenton Women’s Village?

**INTERVIEWS**

9 Interviews conducted from 7/02/10 to 7/22/10
- 12 women were living in the village at the time of the interview
- 75% of the women living at the village were interviewed at that time

**HOMELESSNESS STATUS**

- Avg. Age becoming H.: 38
- Avg. of Times being Homeless: 1, 1.89, 4
- Avg. Time spent Homeless: 0.67y, 5.38y, 14y

**RESIDENCE AT KWV**

- Avg. Time lived in KWV: 17d, 78d, 118d
**RESIDENTS DEMOGRAPHICS**

**Gender**
- 100%

**Avg. Age**
- 48

**Race**
- 11.1% Multiracial (1)
- 11.1% Latino (1)
- 33.3% Black (3)
- 44.4% White (4)

**Relation**
- 11.1% in a relation (1)
- 33.3% single (3)
- 55.6% divorced (5)

**Child**
- 55.6% Yes (5)
- 44.4% No (4)

**Education**
- 33.3% College (3)
- 22.2% Master (2)
- 22.2% High School or GED (2)
- 22.2% School but not graduated (2)

**Current Employment**
- 11.1% Yes (1)
• Pod Satisfaction
  • 4 very satisfied (44.4%)
  • 4 satisfied (44.4%)
  • 1 dissatisfied (11.1%)

• Village Satisfaction
  • 2 very satisfied (22.2%)
  • 5 satisfied (55.6%)
  • 2 neither satisfied or dissatisfied (22.2%)

• Neighborhood Satisfaction
  • 3 very satisfied (33.3%)
  • 6 satisfied (66.7%)
All participants reported *low or very low food security*

When asked *how much their emotional health interfered with daily activities in the last month*, the average response was moderately (2.78 out of 5)

When asked *how much their physical health interfered with daily activities in the last month*, the average response was quite a bit (3.78 out of 5)

All participants *saw a health care provider* in the last month
“Being able to be here, to have my own existence...I can just go in my pod, shut the door.”

“Going to get laundry done, trying to drag it up that hill has been a real bad issue for a lot of the people here.”
Village life

“I can sleep securely, and I’ve gotten the best sleep I’ve had in a long, long time here. “You can talk to them [the other villagers] civilized and have a conversation of why something might have hurt somebody’s feelings – things like that.”

“We should all be raising our hands, yes or no...voting. I believe if you encompass the people that you are managing, and you let them be a part of this organization, then you’re gonna have better morale.”
“My first interaction with a person in the neighborhood was ‘oh that’s great, welcome to the neighborhood and I hope things go well there.’ And that he’d heard good things about the village itself. And I was pretty much blown away.”

“[It’s hard] to be able to actually have a life outside of these gates, no way to get anywhere.”
The existing kitchen will remain and will be supplemented by the new common building which will:

- have full utilities
- provide + 685 sft
- have ADA accessible services
- be used for gathering meeting
Pic of improvements being made? Or cover of how to guide?