



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Bentonville Schools & Excellerate Foundation Announce Teacher Housing & Early Learning  
Childhood Center**  
*Community Coalition Creates McAuley Place to Serve Educators*

**McAuley Place at A Glance**

- McAuley Place is located at I & 41<sup>st</sup> Streets east of the Bentonville Community Center.
- The land for this project was made available by Mercy Health.
- Thirty-five cottages will be allocated for Bentonville Schools employees.
- Another 120 units will be available to District employees and the larger community.
- The development will also boast an on-site early learning center for the children of Bentonville Schools' staff and other residents of the development.
- McAuley Place is named for Catherine McAuley who founded the [Sisters of Mercy](#).

**Bentonville, Ark.**—May 21, 2024—Bentonville Schools, in partnership with Excellerate Foundation, Benton County, Mercy Health and Arvest Bank, announce a trailblazing development, affording employees of Bentonville Schools the opportunity to live where they work.

McAuley Place, located at I Street and 41<sup>st</sup> Street will welcome 35 Bentonville Schools' employees who financially qualify to rent an affordable, single-family cottage for up to five years. Alternatively, they can choose to participate in an innovative home equity program, escalating the pathway to home ownership.

McAuley Place will also house a 3,000 square foot early learning center available for the children of qualifying Bentonville Schools employees and other residents of the development. The center has capacity for 60 infants and toddlers.

“It’s a special thing when residents of a community see a need and come together to provide the solution,” said Superintendent Dr. Debbie Jones. “This is an opportunity to change the landscape in Bentonville where many new teachers and other young professionals are priced out of the housing market,” she added.

Jeff Webster, President/CEO of Excellerate Foundation, said what makes this project unique beyond the widespread partnerships is its Home Ownership Mutual Equity Solutions (HOMES) program. Bentonville Schools employees living in a cottage who sign up for the program will build equity they can take with them to put down on a forever home.

“The HOMES program emulates all the benefits of home ownership while removing many of the financial challenges such as down payments, mortgage insurance taxes and closing costs.

When the participants leave, they will go with their principal and much of the appreciation of the home, currently estimated at \$50,000, to be used toward the purchase of a permanent home,” Webster said.

Another 120 units of various sizes will be made available to qualifying District employees and members of the community with two-bedroom units renting for approximately \$750/month, with affordable rents to remain for the next 35 years.

For more information, visit [bentonvilleschoolshousing.com](http://bentonvilleschoolshousing.com).

### ***About Bentonville Schools***

Established in 1841, Bentonville Schools is the premier public school system in Arkansas, serving more than 19,000 students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Twenty-four schools, spanning more than 143 miles across Northwest Arkansas, call the district home. Bentonville Schools is critically acclaimed for its academics, arts and athletics and is committed to excellence through innovative, inspiring learning experiences. For more information, visit [bentonvillek12.org](http://bentonvillek12.org)

### ***About Excellerate Foundation***

For over 25 years, Excellerate Foundation has worked diligently to improve the lives of all those who call the region home. We have invested \$125 million into the community and created three charitable entities: Hark at Excellerate Foundation, Upskill NWA, and our most recent, Excellerate Housing. By identifying our most pressing needs, connecting the key stakeholders that shape our daily lives, and helping drive lasting change, Excellerate wants to give everyone in Northwest Arkansas the opportunity to thrive.

For more information about Excellerate Foundation and its initiatives, visit [excelleratefoundation.com](http://excelleratefoundation.com)

