



Join us for the Hope Spring Village - Friendship Houses of Durham Ribbon Cutting on September 22, 2013 at 3:30.

Hope Spring Village, Duke Divinity School and Reality Ministries are proud to announce the official Ribbon Cutting of the Friendship Houses of Durham. The ceremony is open to the public and will be held on September 22, 2013 at 3:30 pm. The event will take place at the site of the Friendship Houses located at 304 & 306 Northwood Circle in Durham. Located in the North Street community of Durham, these homes are the first of what is hoped will be many more houses to be built in North Carolina. The idea for the North Street community is grounded in a theological conviction that God loves everyone equally, both the able-bodied and those with disabilities. That simple notion was the impetus behind the Reality Center, a ministry started in 2008 across from Durham School of the Arts.

HopeSpring Village was formed in 2012. Its purpose is to identify and support, or create independent living communities in the Triangle area of North Carolina for individuals with special needs. HopeSpring's goal is to provide housing, education, vocational training, social and spiritual programs set in the community—with the ultimate objective of having each person grow and become as independent as possible. By nurturing personal independence in a vibrant community setting, HopeSpring Village will seek to support those life experiences that bolster confidence, develop life skills, and provide opportunities for employment.

The Friendship Houses of Durham opened in August and were made possible through the collaboration of HopeSpring Village, Reality Ministries of Durham and the Duke Divinity School. The Friendship House Model addresses the needs of its constituencies by inviting divinity and other graduate students to live in community with persons with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). While this meets the primary need of safe, affordable housing for both groups, it meets another important unaddressed need. These graduates will be community leaders wherever they serve throughout the world. They will benefit from the experience of learning from their gifted roommates with an I/DD. Living in Friendship

House will equip them with the skills and vision for creating communities more inclusive of persons with disabilities. Everyone benefits and grows through the experience.

Another important component of the Friendship Houses will be the support provided by Reality Ministries of Durham. The primary focus of their staff and volunteers is on creating opportunities for teens and adults with and without developmental disabilities to experience belonging, kinship and growth within a Christian setting, as well as the larger community.

We invite you to help celebrate the bright future that lies ahead!



Friendship House of Durham