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**RESIDENTS CELEBRATE PURCHASE OF FORT COLLINS MOBILE HOME PARK**

**Park’s sale preserves affordable housing and secures self-governance**

**FORT COLLINS, Colo., August 1, 2022** – Residents of a Colorado mobile home park formed a new non-profit to represent them in the purchase of their park. Today’s purchase of Parklane Mobile Home Park will preserve affordable housing and will guarantee that residents can govern their own community.

Parklane is one of only six mobile home parks in Colorado to move to resident governance or resident ownership since Colorado’s Mobile Home Park Act was updated to expand opportunities for residents to purchase their communities in June 2020. Since the amendment came into effect, 69 mobile home parks have sold throughout Colorado. Though the legislation makes it more attainable for residents to purchase, only about nine percent of these parks have sold to residents.

In Larimer County from January 2020 through July 2022, 30% (approximately 2,000 mobile homes) of all mobile home park units (approximately 5,700 mobile homes) are located in parks that have sold to new owners. None of these parks were sold to residents or resident representatives.

When their landlord notified residents that Parklane Mobile Home Park would go up for sale last December, they gathered to discuss the possibility of purchasing the park. Residents wanted to remain in their community. They knew a sale would likely mean that rent would jump, or that the park would be replaced with another development.

Residents looked to their relationships with two neighboring nonprofits, The Genesis Project and The Matthews House, to help navigate the complex process of making a purchase offer and securing financing. The first step in purchasing the park was to form a new nonprofit to represent residents. Residents named the nonprofit United Neighbors/Vecinos Unidos (UN/VU). Residents, UN/VU and many community entities came together to support the goal of purchasing the park. Their efforts over the past seven months came to fruition today, when UN/VU successfully purchased Parklane for $6.8 million. Financing was composed of funding from Larimer County ($1 million forgivable loan); Bohemian Foundation ($2.8 million loan); and Impact Development Fund ($3 million loan).

“We hope that resident ownership and resident governance will become less rare, and that this sale will inspire residents of other parks,” said Adry Santiago, UN/VU board member. “Our Colorado legislators and our community nonprofits recognize that maintaining affordable housing is one of the largest and most important challenges we must tackle.”

Residents are eager to take the next step in setting up self-governance. This includes determining rent levels, utility services and maintenance.

“I have lived in this community for 15 years,” said Evelia Rosas. “I like this place because it is central. It is close to schools, stores, gas stations, and it is a place that is safe and calm. I like my community very much and I am ready to make positive changes alongside my neighbors. For us it is a dream come true.”

In the future, residents have the option to transition to resident ownership, rather than non-profit ownership. This purchase gives residents stability and time to explore different models.

**About Parklane Mobile Home Park**

Parklane Mobile Home Park, a community of 68 mobile homes established in 1958, is home to approximately 200 adults and more than 100 children. Many families and individuals have lived in this community just east of Fort Collins’ city limits for more than 20 years.

**About United Neighbors/Vecinos Unidos**

United Neighbors/Vecinos Unidos is a new nonprofit dedicated to preserving long-term affordability of Parklane and establishing a resident governance model. United Neighbors/Vecinos Unidos purchased Parklane on Aug. 1, 2022. The UN/VU board includes:

* Sarah Bolduc, park resident, staff member at The Genesis Project and social worker at Poudre School District
* Nicole Armstrong, executive director at The Matthews House
* Tommi Sue Cox, principal at Laurel Elementary School, Parklane neighborhood public school
* Adry Santiago, equity resource specialist, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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