



# CONNECTION

MOVING TOWARD A WORLD FREE OF MS

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New Jersey Metro Chapter

# Breaking New Ground!

On New Jersey's first, brand-new supportive housing for people with MS. The new complex, Kershaw Commons, will be the first facility of its kind on the East Coast! *See more on page 22*



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# KERSHAW COMMONS BREAKS GROUND!

**T**his past August, the New Jersey Metro Chapter along with Regan Development broke ground on New Jersey's first, brand-new supportive housing for people with multiple sclerosis (MS). The housing complex, Kershaw Commons, is located in Freehold Township and will be the first facility of its kind on the East Coast.



Scheduled for completion late next summer, the facility will feature thirty, barrier-free, one- and two-bedroom apartments built with many accessibility features designed to accommodate everyday living for those with MS. Each apartment will come with rental assistance to allow people of limited income to afford these accessible apartments. Additionally, the complex will house a wellness and community space that will feature programming and support services provided by the New Jersey Metro Chapter.

Residents will have access to recreational and social programs such as tai chi and yoga, ongoing educational lectures, self help groups, employment related programs, and easy access to the nearby MS Center and MS Wellness Center at CentraState Medical Center.

"Accessible affordable housing is often a critical element in enabling people with MS to preserve their independence and remain engaged in their communities," says Jim Roberts, President of the New Jersey Metro Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. "The Kershaw Commons facility will be the perfect place in which to do this. Residents will be able to maintain their independence by having the necessary tools on hand for them to do so. We are thrilled to be able to offer this much-needed service to those living with MS and are working hard to bring affordable, accessible housing to other parts of New Jersey."

Kershaw Commons is a project that has been in the works for many years. It was initiated by former Freehold Mayor Raymond Kershaw (who passed away last year) and Michael Elkow, former New Jersey Metro Chapter President and current Regional Executive Vice President of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. "Ray Kershaw

got involved with the National MS Society over 20 years ago despite not having a personal connection to the disease," says Michael Elkow. "Over this time, Ray was a guardian angel to those living with MS. He successfully helped to build the New Jersey Metro Chapter and most



*Chapter President Jim Roberts joins former Chapter President Mike Elkow with the Kershaw family.*





*Developer Ken Regan.*

recently was instrumental in the development of an MS Center and MS Wellness Center in Freehold. Prior to his death, Ray paved the way for this wonderful housing complex."

The ground breaking ceremony saw interested applicants for the housing joined together with New Jersey state agencies, Township of Freehold officials, National MS Society officials, lenders and project developer Ken Regan, Vice President of Regan Development Corporation. Kershaw Commons marks the productive teamwork between several public agencies and the private sector

in a successful effort to help people with MS. The State of New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Housing Mortgage Finance Agency(HMFA) and Department of Health and Senior Services have all joined with the private sector to help those with MS in need.

The HMFA is providing both taxable bond financing in the amount of \$1,310,314, a Special Needs Housing Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$2,562,787 and an allocation of affordable housing tax credits to help make this project successful. In a unique partnership to help people leave nursing homes, the State Department of Health and Senior Services will provide Medicaid waiver funding to eligible residents.

Locally, the Township of Freehold has been extremely supportive, expediting approvals and providing tax benefits that help make the rents affordable. Additionally, Monmouth County has agreed to provide each resident of Kershaw Commons federally funded rental assistance, to allow rent affordability for residents. "The public support for Kershaw Commons has been overwhelming, in combination with private bank lenders and private equity investment. From the start of this project, so many public agencies have worked hard to help people with MS. Combining those public efforts with substantial private equity investment, we have crafted a stable, affordable rental complex to help those with MS for many years to come," notes Ken Regan, Vice President of Regan Development.



*Carol Kershaw*

The August ground breaking drew interested applicants and supporters of those living with multiple sclerosis for this historic day. Applications are now available for autumn 2011 occupancy and demand is expected to be high. Interested parties should contact Kershaw Commons at (732) 431-0500 or visit [www.kershawcommons.com](http://www.kershawcommons.com). Regan notes, "We urge interested persons and their families to act quickly, as this complex will soon have a long waiting list."