



S U C C E S S S T O R Y

David & Joyce Dinkins Gardens

Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc.

In May 2006, The Home Depot Foundation provided Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement, Inc. (HCCI) an Affordable Housing Built Responsibly grant for \$50,000 to support the development of the David & Joyce Dinkins Gardens (The Dinkins), an affordable green housing development in Harlem. Named in honor of former Mayor David N. Dinkins — New York City's only African-American Mayor — The Dinkins is Harlem's only green building developed exclusively for low-income residents. The development consists of 85 units of affordable housing with 26 of its studio apartments dedicated to youth who have aged out of foster care.

Located on primarily undeveloped land on 153rd and 154th Streets in Central Harlem, The Dinkins is designed to address three important issues: lack of quality affordable housing in Harlem; the need to make affordable housing more efficient and healthy; and the limited outdoor green space in New York City neighborhoods.

Funding from The Home Depot Foundation supported the design and construction of the Green Grid Roofing System on the building, which significantly enhances the quality of life of the residents. The Dinkins will expose all of its residents to green principles through the environmentally friendly roofing system. Benefits of the green roof include reduced energy costs, reduced urban "heat island" effect, sound insulation, longer roof life, improved aesthetics, and storm-water management. Rainwater harvested from the roofs will be used to irrigate the property's landscaping and community garden, and to clean the front sidewalks of the building. Other notable green features include sun shading and an innovative in-plank ventilation system.

HCCI and The Home Depot Foundation believe that by helping families and individuals secure dependable, healthy, affordable housing, we are increasing their chances of success in all areas of their lives and are creating stable, strong communities.

Green Highlights:

- *GreenGrid green roofing system*
- *Rainwater harvesting system*
- *Energy Star appliances*
- *Water conserving appliances and fixtures*
- *Individual unit metering*
- *Low/no VOC materials*
- *Fresh air ventilation*
- *Proper humidification*

"HCCI is extremely proud to build an affordable green housing development honoring our first African American Mayor, David Dinkins and his wife, Joyce Dinkins. In addition to honoring these heroes, this project demonstrates how we can creatively address issues of environment and sustainability," said Lucille McEwen, president and CEO of HCCI. "Our partnership with The Home Depot Foundation has enabled us to build housing that is both environment-friendly and affordable to low income families and young people aging out of foster care."

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