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Media Contact: Elizabeth Pierre, Just A Start
617-918-7522 / elizabethpierre@justastart.org

JUST A START AND PARTNERS CELEBRATE TOPPING-OFF OF 52 NEW STREET IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Milestone Marks Structural Completion of 106 Affordable Homes and New Commercial Space

CAMBRIDGE, MA – April 1, 2025 – Just A Start, along with Callahan Construction Managers, RODE Architects, and local leaders, celebrated a major milestone today with the topping-off ceremony at 52 New Street. This event marks the placement of the final structural beam on what will be Just A Start’s largest-ever residential development, bringing 106 much-needed affordable rental homes to Fresh Pond.

Located adjacent to Danehy Park and within walking distance of public transit, 52 New Street will provide affordable housing options to families of varying incomes while also creating new opportunities for local businesses. Of the 106 new apartments, 17 will be reserved for households earning up to 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI), 79 will be restricted to households earning up to 60% of AMI, and 10 will be designated as middle-income units for households earning up to 80% of AMI.

The six-story building will also feature 3,875 square feet of commercial space on the ground floor, adding to the vibrancy of the neighborhood and providing essential services to residents and the broader Cambridge community.

“With 106 new affordable homes—ranging from one- to three-bedrooms—we are creating critical opportunities for households to live and thrive in Cambridge,” said **Just A Start Executive Director Carl Nagy-Koechlin**. “Thanks to the support of our partners, we are one step closer to ensuring more families have access to stable, affordable housing.”

The 52 New Street development was made possible through strong partnerships and innovative design that balances affordability, sustainability, and community needs. The project is built to Passive House energy standards, emphasizing environmental responsibility and long-term efficiency.

“The mission of Just A Start leads to creating better outcomes for individuals and families that have the potential for greater things - but they need a solid foundation to build from,” said **Stephen Callahan Jr., Vice President - Business Development for Callahan**. “At Callahan, we have been honored to partner with Just A Start and be a part of the team that is bringing 52 New Street to life, with today’s milestone an achievement for all stakeholders as well as the residents of Cambridge.”

“We’re excited to celebrate this milestone and to see the form of the building take shape,” said **Ben Wan, Principal at RODE Architects**. “We wanted to create an inclusive, sustainable place that serves the needs of the families that will find a home here, with comfortable apartments, a variety of amenity spaces, and landscaping that connects to Danehy Park and the community at large. We could not have asked for better partners in bringing this vision to life.”

Residents at 52 New Street will benefit from a variety of tenant amenities, including patio and roof decks, a fitness room, a community room, and a play area. With construction on track for completion in the winter of 2025, Just A Start is now beginning the process of identifying commercial tenants for the ground-floor space. Businesses, nonprofits, and organizations interested in leasing space at 52 New Street are encouraged to reach out to Just A Start for more information.



Ceremony attendees with final structural beam



Representative Steve Owens signs beam



Cambridge Vice Mayor Marc McGovern signs beam

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About Just A Start:

Just A Start believes that access to stable housing and sustainable careers are the essential building blocks of equitable communities. For more than 50 years, we have focused on meeting the fundamental needs of individuals and families who have been systematically denied opportunities to realize their full potential. Our programs include affordable housing, education and job training, and comprehensive support services, spanning Cambridge and beyond. We have developed and currently maintain 600 affordable apartments. To keep community members housed, we also offer financial and technical assistance to prevent evictions, and support low- and moderate-income homeowners. Finally, we prepare individuals of all ages and circumstances with the skills and knowledge they need to secure fulfilling careers, leveraging their talents to achieve economic mobility and strengthen the region's workforce.