

New Development Brings More than Independence to Ft. Benjamin Harrison

By [Emily Duncan](#), Marketing & Communications Director

Tuesday, August 26th saw the Grand Opening of the Merici Village Apartments, a new housing development located in a renovated army barracks building on the former Fort Harrison Parade Grounds.

A crowd of nearly 100 people, including almost two dozen members of IHEDA's staff, gathered on Merici Village's massive front porch to witness the grand opening ceremonies which concluded with the official ribbon cutting by IHEDA Executive Director Jacob Sipe. Joining Jacob was Mary, a future resident who graciously and excitedly showed off her new apartment during the tour that followed.



The project, which utilized Rental Housing Tax Credits, is a partnership between [Merchants Affordable Housing Corp.](#), [TWG Development](#) and the [Villages of Merici](#), which offers 21 one- and two-bedroom units to low income households with individuals with developmental disabilities.

A first of its kind in Central Indiana, the Villages of Merici offers a uniquely interdependent community of residents, support staff and families who have created an environment that affords the residents an opportunity to grow more self-sufficient individually, in tandem with their new neighbors and the surrounding community. Additionally, a Residential Community Coordinator will live on site to assist with general needs and coordinate activities for the residents.

The Merici Village Apartments incorporate cutting edge "green" elements and energy efficient technology to assist with overall costs. Each unit includes a full kitchen and accessible bathroom. There are two common areas located on each of the residents' floors for community activities.

During the grand opening, it was stated that 19 of the 21 units had been assigned to a resident and of those, all but three residents were moving out of their family homes for the first time. The excitement that morning was palpable, not only because of the grand opening event, but the bigger picture of how an idea that stems from a passion and bringing the right people together can be transformative to everyone involved; not only those who are about to take these first steps, but also to those who have been instrumental in bringing them home. ▣

