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MDC’s “The Graaskamp”
Universally-Designed Workforce Housing
Madison Development Corporation’s Graaskamp will add
44 affordable, workforce housing units to Madison’s growing east side

Madison, WI – July 22, 2019 – Madison Development Corporation (MDC) in partnership with the City of Madison, Dane County Housing Authority, United Way of Dane County and Monona Bank, broke ground today on its 44-unit affordable housing building on East Washington Avenue: The Graaskamp.

“The lack of affordable, workforce housing is the #1 economic stability issue for individuals and families in the City,” said MDC Past Chair Ron Trachtenberg. “MDC is helping to resolve this issue by buying, developing, and managing additional workforce housing units in Madison.”

The complex, which will include units ranging in size from efficiency to three-bedrooms, is named after the late UW-Madison Real Estate Professor James A. Graaskamp. As a tribute to Graaskamp, who was stricken by polio at the age of 17 and confined to a wheelchair for the remainder of his life, all first-floor units will feature universal design.

Mayor Rhodes-Conway joined members of MDC’s Board and Staff, as well as partners in the project to break ground for MDC’s new affordable, workforce housing building – The Graaskamp.
“I am thrilled that Madison Development Corporation is adding universal design considerations to some of the Graaskamp units,” said Madison area universal design expert Jane Nemke Earl. “It will make them more welcoming, functional and appealing to so many more people in Madison at different ages, stages and abilities.”

MDC has also partnered with UW Landscape Professor Jim LaGro and his students to help re-design and update the Graaskamp Park. The park was dedicated to Graaskamp in 1989 and was the first fully-accessible park in the State of Wisconsin. It is expected to be re-opened in Fall 2020 pending a successful capital campaign.

Madison Development Corporation is a non-profit housing developer whose portfolio has grown from 207 to 313 units in the past 2 years and has plans to continue to grow with and beyond the addition of The Graaskamp.

MDC will begin accepting applications for the complex in December 2019. For further information about MDC’s The Graaskamp Project and other affordable housing units, please contact Kyle Kopplin, MDC Director of Communications at kyle@mdcorp.org or 608.571.3302.