



**Casa Familia**  
a supportive living community

ATLANTIC  
PACIFIC  
COMPANIES

GROWING BIGGER, GROWING BETTER

ACQUISITIONS

CONSTRUCTION

DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Casa Familia Makes History with Funding Approval for the First Residential Community in Miami-Dade County for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)**

**MIAMI, FL (Wednesday, June 26, 2019)** – Casa Familia, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization advocating for adults with IDD, was awarded capital funding, by a unanimous vote from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation Board, on May 10, 2019, for the first affordable housing community in Miami-Dade County for this underserved population. This milestone award of \$15 million in federal tax credits and \$4 million grant, allows Casa Familia to begin planning and continue raising the necessary funds to ensure the development and sustainable operations of this groundbreaking community.

**The Village of Casa Familia** will be located in Kendall, near Indian Hammocks Park. The 50-unit complex will be a campus style, pedestrian-friendly community enriched with extensive amenities tailored to the unique needs of individuals with IDD, including those most vulnerable. This first-of-its-kind community will be a place where residents can receive the long-term support and accommodations they need to live independent and fulfilled lives.

“There has never been an affordable independent living community developed anywhere in South Florida for this underserved population. Most adults with IDD continue to have unmet needs. They have limited choices, and without help, rarely participate in the community, due to a lack of access to transportation and other services. For aging caregivers the demands of caring for loved ones is often overwhelming, and alternative solutions grow increasingly urgent. Casa Familia is proud to sponsor this first-of-its-kind community in Miami-Dade County and help address this national crisis,” remarked **Deborah Lawrence, Vice President of Casa Familia.**

Florida is taking the lead in creating these types of communities, as The Village of Casa Familia will be the sixth community funded in the past five years. Nearly 5% of Florida's total population has an intellectual and/or developmental disability. According to the [State of the States](#), in Florida, 74% of individuals with IDD live with a family caregiver; a third of which live with a caregiver age 60 and older. As this generation of caregivers continues to age, many of their adult children with IDD are at risk of homelessness. Current residential options are either inappropriate or out of their economic reach, particularly in Miami-Dade County, where the average cost of a one-bedroom apartment is \$1,147, far above the economic capacity of the average adult with IDD, most of whom subsist on \$771 in Supplemental Security Income.

**Atlantic | Pacific Communities** partnered with Casa Familia to develop, build, and manage the property in accordance with the not-for-profit's vision. The design phase of the project began on June 1, 2019.

**Eric Jawitz, a 31-year-old with IDD** remarked, "I'm happy communities like this are being supported and built for people like me. I currently live at home with my parents and I would like to have my own apartment, like my sister does, somewhere in Miami, so I can be close to my job. I think a community would be a great place for me to live. I could live near my friends, make new friends, and we could do activities together at the community center. That way, I wouldn't be so lonely."

The Casa Familia project is made possible thanks to the support of its generous partners including Atlantic | Pacific Communities, UM CARD, United Community Options, Miami-Dade County, Commissioner Javier Souto, State Representative Nick Duran, State Representative Danny Perez, State Senator Anitere Flores, and Ron Book & staff.

For more information about Casa Familia, please visit [www.casafamiliainc.org](http://www.casafamiliainc.org) and follow them on [Facebook and Twitter](#). If interested in supporting and contributing to the development of this community, please contact Marie-Ilene Whitehurst at [mwhitehurst@casafamiliainc.org](mailto:mwhitehurst@casafamiliainc.org).

For more information about A | P Companies and its array of real estate services including development, property management, affordable housing, and construction, visit [www.apcompanies.com](http://www.apcompanies.com)

###

## **ABOUT CASA FAMILIA, INC**

Casa Familia, Inc. ("Casa Familia") is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2015, whose mission is to develop and support affordable housing for adults with IDD in an enriched community setting. The organization's Board of Directors is led by 17 diverse community leaders and professionals with significant professional experience in the areas of law, finance, marketing, strategic planning, nonprofit development, architecture, affordable housing development, business management, and government relations. The

8 Founding Board Members, all of whom have adult children with IDD, have decades of experience navigating the complex world of IDD benefits and services and a deep understanding of the needs of this underserved population. Casa Familia's Consulting Executive Director, Deborah Korge, has 25 years of nonprofit leadership and management experience including serving as Executive Director of Casa Valentina and of The Women's Fund Miami-Dade.

### **ABOUT ATLANTIC | PACIFIC COMMUNITIES**

Atlantic | Pacific Communities (A|P Communities) is a national housing development company with a staff of professionals dedicated to excellence in market rate, workforce, and affordable housing. A|P Communities is an affiliate of Atlantic | Pacific Companies (A|P), a fourth-generation family-owned and operated real estate company who builds and operates high quality housing to serve every income level. A|P employs more than 1,400 people throughout Florida, Georgia, Texas, California and the Mid-Atlantic and has over 40,000 multifamily units under management. For additional information, please visit [www.apcompanies.com](http://www.apcompanies.com).

### **MEDIA CONTACTS FOR A|P COMMUNITIES:**

Juliana Gutierrez | [juliana@jwipr.com](mailto:juliana@jwipr.com) | 786.991.4259

Violeta Pereira | [violeta@jwipr.com](mailto:violeta@jwipr.com) | 786.371.3748