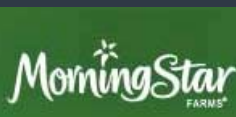


# Jamaica Plain



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JAMAICA PLAIN

## Church converted to housing earns national recognition

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 4, 2011 05:34 PM

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(Courtesy: City of Boston)

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation's Creighton Commons development has received national recognition environmentally- and cost-efficient construction.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The conversion of a former Jamaica Plain church campus into housing placed second in a national competition for projects displaying excellence in both affordability and "green" construction.

The Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Development Corporation earned a \$25,000 grant – one of four prizes awarded nationally – for a project that was the runner-up in the "Home Ownership" category of The Home Depot Foundation's sixth-annual "Awards of Excellence for Affordable Housing Built Responsibly," according to a release Tuesday from the neighborhood-based nonprofit.

The other three winning nonprofits were based on the West Coast.

Creighton Commons, a 16-unit condominium and home development that opened in Oct. 2009 on the former Blessed Sacrament Church site, was selected, as were other winning projects, based on a number of criteria,

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including architectural design, building performance and community involvement, according to Home Depot.

Particular attention was paid to how each project provides ongoing savings and long term affordability for the residents through lower utility, maintenance and transportation costs, the home repair retail company's foundation said.

"We're honored to have our work recognized by a foundation that is a national leader in the housing field," said JPNDC Executive Director Richard Thal in the release. "We share a fundamental goal with The Home Depot Foundation: to develop homes that are not only affordable to people of modest means, but also add to the vitality and long-term health of the whole community."

The awards, created by Home Depot's foundation in 2005 to "showcase outstanding and innovative work by nonprofit housing developers," was announced in mid-November at a U.S. Green Building Council-hosted expo in Chicago.

JPNDC, along with private partner New Atlantic Development Corp., is redeveloping the 3.2-acre former church campus off Centre Street.

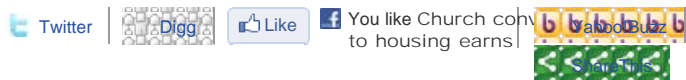
The site's 115-year-old rectory was the first in a series of ongoing projects. It is now Creighton Commons, 10 condominiums and six homes that incorporate solar panels, a fresh air ventilation system, and water conserving plumbing and fixtures, the nonprofit said. The renovated homes and the new homes meet the US Green Building Council's LEED Silver and Gold standards respectively, and are 50 percent more energy efficient and 25 percent more water efficient than homes built to code, according to JPNDC.

The 10 two-bedroom condos have been sold to income-qualified buyers for around or slightly more than half of private market level prices.

"Healthy, affordable homes like Creighton Commons are the cornerstone of strong families and thriving communities," said president of The Home Depot Foundation Kelly Caffarelli in the release. "We're proud to become a funding partner of the JPNDC, and we're confident that its work at Blessed Sacrament will serve as a model for other developers."

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese closed the church in 2004.

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