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Home of My Own of WNY Awarded \$239,500 Grant from Golisano Foundation to Begin Lower-Level Common Space Renovations

Williamsville, NY – Local non-profit, [Home of My Own of WNY](#), is thrilled to announce it has received a grant of \$239,500 from the B. Thomas Golisano Foundation to begin renovations on three lower-level common spaces at their inclusive Williamsville apartment location.

Home of My Own of WNY is a nonprofit that was founded to create residential apartment communities in Western New York tailored to independent individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and typical peers who desire to live in a safe, social and integrated community. A three-building, Williamsville apartment complex was purchased by Home of My Own of WNY in May 2024 and the first tenants moved in during the Summer of 2025. Each building features four (4) individual, two-bedroom apartments and a common area on the lower level which will be used by all tenants for entertainment, educational workshops, wellness activities and other social events.

The Golisano Foundation is one of the nation's largest foundations dedicated to supporting programs for people with intellectual disabilities. The grant will help fund the next step in Home of My Own's mission, "We are grateful to the Golisano Foundation for this generous grant, which will help us begin the extensive renovations required to complete the three lower-level common spaces both our tenants and the community can enjoy," said Ellen Pachioli, Home of My Own Co-Founder and Director.

This project is seen as the next step on a path that allows individuals from Western New York who have an intellectual disability the opportunity to live independently in a community among their peers in a safe, walkable area.

The renovated apartment complex allows individuals with IDD to live as independently as possible while having access to community-centered spaces which fosters opportunities that promote inclusion. The on-property common spaces would provide readily-available opportunities for

socialization that create organic, meaningful interactions and inspire the pathways to friendship and independence. In addition to the tenants, the lower levels may also be utilized by the community in conjunction with Home of My Own of WNY for entertainment, educational workshops and other activities.

Connie Stives, Co-Founder and Director of Home of My Own® of WNY, said, “Extensive renovations and updates have been completed. The next phase of our property upgrades will be the common spaces which will help us fulfill our motto, “On My Own, But Not Alone.” This grant will allow us to begin construction on all three lower levels so our tenants can socialize, learn, exercise, and hang out together to help them achieve independence and never feel alone.”

“We are pleased to be able to be part of Home of My Own’s journey and updates to their first property. Golisano Foundation’s focus on programs for individuals with intellectual disabilities aligns with their mission, vision and values and the construction on these spaces should provide significant progress in property improvements and the independent lifestyle their tenants strive for,” said Erica Dayton, Golisano Foundation Executive Director.

The Golisano Foundation is one of the largest private foundations in the U.S. dedicated to making the world a better place for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Foundation is devoted to opening doors to opportunity, changing negative perceptions and stereotypes, and forging unprecedented partnerships to ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have pathways to personal dignity, independence, and the best possible expression of their abilities and talents throughout their lifetimes. Founded in 1985 by Tom Golisano—entrepreneur, philanthropist, civic leader, and founder of Paychex, Inc. —the Foundation “imagines the possibilities,” advocating for families, fighting for their dignity, and giving people with IDD the opportunity to thrive in their communities. With more than \$100 million in gross assets, it awards about \$5 million annually to non-profit organizations in Western New York and Southwest Florida.

“The Golisano grant is the cornerstone of the common-space project at the Williamsville apartments. Ensuring the spaces are safe, modern, comfortable and functional is just the beginning of what could be done with those spaces and this grant kick-starts that project in a big way. I look forward to the possibilities for socialization, education and camaraderie with tenants and the greater IDD population locally,” said Karen Cuddy-Miller, Home of My Own® of WNY Board President.

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About Home of My Own® of WNY:

[Home of My Own® of WNY](#) is a nonprofit that was founded to create residential apartment communities in Western New York tailored to independent individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who desire to live in a safe, social and integrated community. Their vision includes a community of apartment living where residents live in their own individual apartments, yet share common spaces with their peers where they can support each other and create meaningful interactions, while developing friendships and independence. The goal is a community-centered location that can provide easy accessibility to public transportation, employment opportunities and leisure that will provide lifelong sustainability. [Click](#) to donate or support the [mission, vision and values](#) of this organization.

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- YouTube: [@GolisanoFoundation](#)

About Home of My Own® of WNY:

[Home of My Own® of WNY](#) is a nonprofit that was founded to create residential apartment communities in Western New York tailored to independent individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and typical peers who desire to live in a safe, social and integrated community. Their vision includes a community of non-certified apartment living where residents live in their own individual apartments, yet share common spaces with their peers where they can support each other and create meaningful interactions, while developing friendships and independence. The goal is a community-centered location that can provide easy accessibility to public transportation, employment opportunities and leisure that will provide lifelong sustainability. [Click](#) to donate or support the [mission, vision and values](#) of this organization.

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