

administrative and social service staff members are already on board working with potential residents. At a walk through in November, prospective tenants seemed most impressed with the large, tiled bathrooms and the individual heating and air conditioning units in each apartment.



Photo: Rodell

Our 73-unit Morris Avenue residence designed by Urban Architectural Initiatives (UAI) began construction in March. The newly constructed 7-story residence will contain both supported apartments for special need individuals and regular low-income apartments for people at or below 50% of median income. The plan envisions a large rear courtyard, a commercial kitchen

and large dining/tenant recreation room, staff offices and a live-in superintendent apartment. Construction completion is anticipated in June, 2004.

Concurrently, our 45-unit Convent Avenue project has also gone to bid. Unlike Jasmine and Morris which are being funded by the City, Convent is being financed by the State Office of Mental Health and will house high end need individuals. This project is also designed by UAI, and features an enclosed rear courtyard, a commercial kitchen and large dining room, a tenant activity room and program offices. It is anticipated that construction will begin this spring and be completed in the summer of 2004.

Finally, design is complete and work has been bid for renovations at our Simmons Residence. This will involve work on the MICA unit including new bathrooms, and a complete renovation of the building kitchen to enlarge it and incorporate additional stoves and ovens, a walk-in freezer and refrigerator, new sinks and work surfaces, and appliances such as a commercial mixer needed to increase the output of the kitchen and to allow for resident training opportunities.

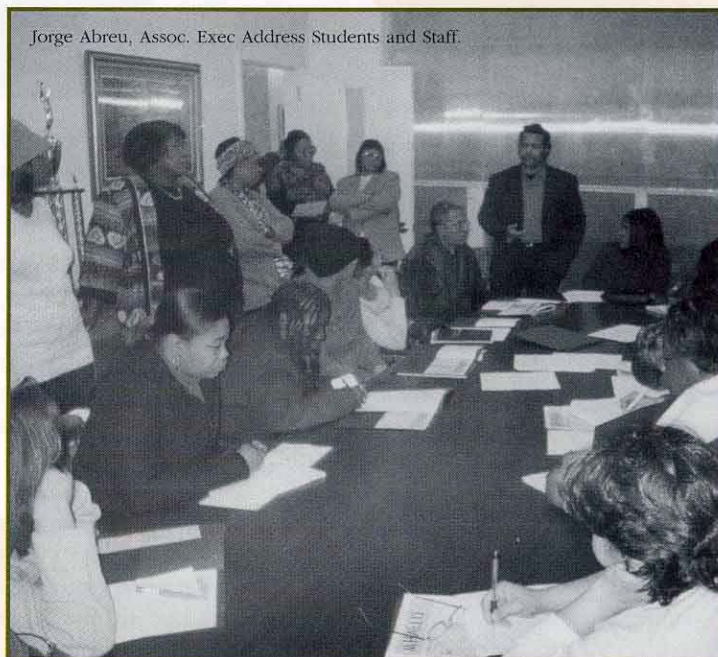
These projects represent more than \$24 million in capital development, and will serve to increase Heritage's capacity by 75%. At the same time, we are beginning to explore sites and funding for the next round of development so that Heritage can continue to build its capacity to serve and house those with special needs.

Heritage TANF Mental Health Training Program

Robert Espier, Program Director

The New York State Office of Mental Health has provided Heritage Housing with a grant to train people with children under the age of 18 who are receiving Public Assistance, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), or whose household income falls within the federal poverty threshold.

Heritage will prepare students to work as Residence Counselors and to develop careers in the mental health field. Training includes all aspects of the community residential rehabilitation process, from developing Individualized Treatment Plans to writing billable Progress Notes. The areas covered include clinical workshops on defining mental health and psychotropic medication to understanding the NYS Mental Hygiene Law, Part 595 which governs community mental health residential programs. Students also learn how to train consumers in activities of daily living (ADL). They will learn how to work with persons with serious and persistent mental illnesses (SPMI) and mentally ill ex-offenders (MIX), mentally ill chemical abusers (MICA), persons living with AIDS/HIV, and unaffiliated adults on public assistance.



Jorge Abreu, Assoc. Exec Address Students and Staff.

The total class in this first year will consist of 45 students, 15 of whom speak primarily Spanish. Courses are held in Spanish and English.

In order to carry out their duties optimally, students will also get instruction in the use of computers, writing skills, and English as a Second Language (ESL) for those who need to develop their English speaking skills. These courses will be provided by the Adult and Continuing Education Department of The City College of New York.