

50th ANNIVERSARY PRESS RELEASE

The McGraw Housing Company, Inc. and the Ladies Union Benevolent Society (LUBS) will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of McGraw House. McGraw House officially opened for occupancy on October 1, 1971 for income eligible senior citizens age sixty-two and older.

The relationship between McGraw House and LUBS began over 150 years ago. In the nineteenth century, largely through the generosity of Jane McGraw, LUBS built *The Home for Elderly Women* at 514 South Aurora Street in Ithaca, NY. The Home provided housing and care for qualified female applicants in Tompkins County at least sixty-five years of age.

In June of 1965, both the Trustees and Directors of LUBS voted to phase out The Home and to begin plans for an apartment building for the elderly. Not long thereafter, funding was secured through Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) and a site was purchased on South Geneva Street in Ithaca. It was then decided to name the new housing project McGraw House in honor of the original benefactress of LUBS, Jane McGraw.

The mission of McGraw House is to provide a secure senior living environment which supports and encourages independence, provides privacy, allows individuality, welcomes diversity, fosters a sense of community, and enhances the quality of life for all who reside there.

Executive Director, Viki McDonald, describes McGraw House as “a beautiful, warm and welcoming place with residents and staff who truly care about each other. It is such a joy and honor to be a part of the McGraw House community. We look forward to properly celebrating this momentous occasion when it is safe to do so”.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, anniversary celebrations have been postponed until further notice.