



# VENTURA VILLAGE

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## Oshki - Gakeyaa -- A New Path To Stability

The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC) celebrated the grand opening of Oshki - Gakeyaa, meaning "New Way" in Ojibway. This 24 home permanent supportive housing community occupies the top 2 floors of the MIWRC. 20 units are dedicated to single adults referred through coordinated entry, while 4 will serve individuals with disabilities referred through MIWRC.

"Today marks an important milestone for our community and for the families beginning a new chapter", said Ruth Buffalo, CEO of MIWRC. "Every individual deserves the dignity of a safe home and the opportunity to live with purpose. Stable housing provides the foundation for families to grow stronger and more reliant".

The \$14.1 million development was made possible through a coalition of private and public partners. For more than 40 years, MIWRC has served Native women and families through traditional values and effective community-led solutions that promote health, stability, and self-sufficiency. Through this new development, MIWRC continues its mission to support individuals and families in achieving long-term stability through accountable partnerships, responsible resource management, and respect for cultural heritage.

Anthony LaBatte, a newly moved-in resident, who participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony stated, "Having the opportunity to work and live in MIWRC has changed my life for the better. Thank you all so much for giving me a life". *Information provided by MIWRC*

- Our December Neighborhood Membership meeting on Wednesday, December 10 will include our end of the year committee reports and the election of 2026 Board members. It will meet in person at the ICCM Life Center, 1812 Park Avenue at 7 PM. Our Zoom Link will be on our website, [venturavillage.org](http://venturavillage.org). Food will be served and we encourage you to come and meet your neighbors.
- The bus stops at 10th Avenue and E. Franklin have become a problem for residents and metro transit users. Loitering, drug use and dealing, and prostitution are common at these stops. From April to October of this year there have been 42 calls for police service. The Ventura Village Neighborhood Association and concerned neighbors have begun discussions with Metro Transit on solutions including removing the bus stops. Watch for more updates.
- The City of Minneapolis has set up a Resiliency Center in the Phillips Community Center at the 13th Avenue Waite House Entrance in response to recent shootings and trauma in the neighborhood. It is to help provide access to mental health care services, resources for those experiencing homelessness, and victim advocacy. It will be open every Wednesday from 1 - 4 PM into February.
- Caroline Hall and Miski Omar from Hope Community's Food, Land, and Community Team recently installed this ready-to-go raised bed for a family with 4 children at a new home in our neighborhood. Next spring they will help them plant vegetables and flowers in their raised bed.

## Ventura Village News

- Besides the completion of the MIWRC building, other projects are progressing in our neighborhood. The NACC has reached the 5th floor (see picture), the Mille Lacs Band building on Bloomington Avenue is getting ready to accept offices and residents, and the IPTF Community Center is taking shape. These are all welcome additions to this neighborhood.

