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Franklin West nearing completion of former Ronald McDonald House properties

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When Ronald McDonald House Charities of Pittsburgh needed to move from their beautiful Victorian mansions at 500 and 512 Shady Avenue in preparation for their move to new facilities in the Oakland Children's Hospital in 2008, they sold the homes to Franklin West, Inc, a family managed real estate company. Since then, major renovations were done to the interiors of the buildings in order to transform them into spacious apartments that retain their historic charm.

Nine pre-existing apartments were renovated with new hardwood floors, silver finish appliances, and an elevator, and quickly leased last Spring. The apartments rented for between \$1,400 to \$1,700 per month. Additionally, Ronald McDonald House had two large open spaces, where their offices were housed. The final renovations on those spaces are being completed, and a one bedroom apartment will be available September 1st, with another one bedroom apartment will be available October 1st.

The towering red Victorian at 500 Shady Avenue is currently being prepared for renovation, which entails converting what was previously a 16 room boarding house into 10 luxury one and two bedroom apartments. Franklin West says the apartments are scheduled for move in by next Spring. The building will feature its own parking area, washers and dryers in each suite, and preservation of the original stained glass windows and fireplace mantles.

The architect behind the renovations on both properties is Kevin Wagstaff of Perfidio, Weiskopf, Wagstaff, and Goettel.

Source: Caroline West, General Counsel for Franklin West, Inc.

Writer: John Farley

Image of 500 Shady Avenue courtesy Franklin West, Inc.