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## Property Watch

### *Newark*

#### *Newark Housing Effort Aims to Help Women*

A new apartment complex in Newark has an unusual twist: It's housing developed by women, largely for women.

Newark-based M&M Development cut the ribbon Wednesday on 16 units of "affordable" housing called the Apartments at Harmony Square. Ten of the units have been earmarked for homeless victims of domestic violence and young single mothers. Besides the special-needs units, the Harmony Square project will eventually include 45 condominiums, with a mix of affordable and market rate apartments.

The \$10.2 million development, in Newark's North Ward, was financed from a mix of public and private money, including affordable housing incentive programs, state loans and financing.

Developer Maria Yglesias, who started M&M with her friend Maria Lopez in the mid-1980s, said their firm is dedicated to making attractive, affordable housing that acts as a catalyst for the creation of vibrant, mixed-income neighborhoods.

"We try not just to make good buildings and make them beautiful, but to make sure the buildings will be the cornerstone to change in a neighborhood," Ms. Yglesias said.

The key to transforming long-neglected neighborhoods into successful communities, Yglesias added, is developing a mix of low, moderate and market-rate tenants, in both rentals and privately owned homes.

—Associated Press