

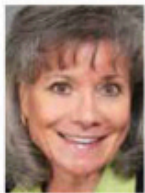
PHOENIX Business Journal

Newspaper Clipping

THEN AND NOW

FIRST PLACE BREAKS GROUND ON FIRST PHOENIX PROPERTY

Denise Resnik, who co-founded the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center, has been busy working on development of First Place-Phoenix, which will provide apartments and a residential training program for people with autism, as well as a leadership institute for providers and medical personnel.



Denise Resnik

The 56-unit complex at Third Street and Catalina Drive in midtown Phoenix will be home to her 24-year-old son Matthew, who has autism.

Originally, when the project was announced in September 2015, Ryan Cos. was going to build the residential facility, which was expected to cost around \$18 million.

Instead, hardison/downey construction inc. has been named general contractor.

"First Place benefits from the most respected leaders in the industry, their expertise and collaborative spirit, including Ryan Cos. and hardison/downey construction," Resnik said. "Ryan generously supported our pre-development activities. During the process, we made changes to the original programming and construction type



PROVIDED BY FIRST PLACE AZ

Ground was broken on Dec. 6 for First Place-Phoenix, which will provide housing options for people with autism.

resulting in our selection of hardison/downey to build First Place-Phoenix."

RSP Architects is the architect for the project, which now is expected to cost about \$15 million.

The project is being financed from public, private and charitable sources, said Resnik, who is founder, president and CEO of First Place AZ.

A \$21.3 million capital campaign will include startup costs for the opening of the property, creation of the First

Place Transition Academy and of the First Place Leadership Institute, as well as Arizona State University/Teach for America fellowships.

The four-story property will employ 50 full- and part-time employees, Resnik said.

She said this will be the first of more to come.



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