



Newspaper Clipping

Adults with autism move into First Place beta site in Phoenix:

Adults with autism have moved into the beta site for the First Place Transition Academy, one of three components of the future First Place mixed-use residential property in Phoenix, according to a press release. The Academy teaches independent living, career development and social skills for adults with autism who often experience a “services cliff” after high school.

In April, the first residents moved into 29 Palms Apartments, a development of the Foundation for Senior Living, which has six two-bedroom apartments for adults with autism and 15 multigenerational housing units. Participants had to complete a seven-week orientation and are learning about participating in community life, which includes instruction in grocery shopping, using public transportation, applying for jobs and expanding their social networks. Annual tuition, which includes rent, classes and individualized services and activities for adults with autism, is \$42,000 a year.

First Place and the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center are collaborating on the two-year project. Participants will have the option to live at the new First Place mixed-use residential development expected to open in 2017.

For more information, visit firstplaceaz.org.