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Ryan Cos. to build \$18M Phoenix residential complex for adults with autism

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Young adults with autism will have the chance to live on their own at a mixed-use residential property being built in Phoenix.

Denise Resnik, co-founder of Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center, said she is looking forward to her **23-year-old son Matthew** moving into the new facility at Third Street and Catalina Drive in midtown Phoenix.

"My plan is that **Matthew** will be one of the future residents of First Place," she said.

The residential property will cost about \$18 million to develop, with work slated to begin in early 2016 so that residents can move in in early to mid-2017.

Ryan Cos. will build the project, which was designed by RSP Architects.

Financing will come from a combination of a charitable capital campaign that's underway and social impact investment loans.



 Enlarge Photo

This new residential property being developed in Phoenix will allow young adults with autism to live on their own.

"We're talking to a few groups right now on those social impact loans," Resnik said.

While the project is under construction, some young adults already have moved into a temporary apartment complex owned by the Foundation for Senior Living. This temporary space will serve as a beta site for the First Place Transition Academy, one of the components of the future First Place mixed-use residential property.

First Place and SARRC are working together on the two-year academy, which teaches functional life skills, provides paid work internships and offers independent living courses on-site and through SARRC's Vocational & Life Skills Academy.

Annual tuition of \$42,000 a year covers rent, classes, individualized services and activities.