

## Letter to the Editor: High-cost low-income housing

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While I support efforts to create low-income housing in Rochester, I was appalled at the per-unit cost (\$192,000) of the Salvation Army's new building, Castleview, a four-story building with 30 units, designated for low-wage earners and homeless people.

A total of \$192,000 can still buy a very nice house in this city. Is it really cost-effective to spend that much on a small apartment, when a whole family (or two or three) can be housed in existing properties for much less? Why not funnel that money into organizations like First Homes or Habitat for Humanity, both of which could provide for many, many more than 30 people with \$5.8 million (the total cost of the project).

I thought the Candle Rose Inn renovation was also very expensive, costing an estimated \$88,600 per unit for 20 units to update an existing property. I would appreciate a response from the Salvation Army and the Olmsted County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, justifying this expense to serve so few. Or, better yet, an article in the Post-Bulletin detailing who gets what and why.

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