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POLITICAL SATIRE RAISES FUNDS TO IMPACT HOUSING SHORTAGE

PORTSMOUTH, NH - THE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP and COMCAST SPOTLIGHT welcome CAPITOL STEPS back, for the tenth year, to the Music Hall in Portsmouth for two benefit concerts on Saturday, February 2, 2008, 5pm and 8pm.

The nationally acclaimed troupe of seasoned Congressional staffers-turned-comedians brings their own brand of comedy to the political scene. Their musical political satire turns the spotlight on the very people they used to work for.

NH has an acute housing stock shortage, especially affordable housing (ownership and rental) for households earning less than area median income. In fact, rents in the southern half of the state have increased as much as 37% over the last 5 years.

Based on projections from the NH Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, 65% of new jobs will pay less than the state level "housing wage" of \$18.81, the amount needed to afford a typical apartment. The Housing Partnership works to strengthen communities by providing quality affordable housing for low and moderate-income residents of the Greater Seacoast region of New Hampshire and Maine.

Over the past nine years, by hosting Capitol Steps, The Housing Partnership has raised over \$285,000 which has supported the development of nearly 200 affordable housing units. The Capitol Steps benefit concerts are The Housing Partnership's major annual fund raiser, benefiting the Agency's work to the help low and moderate-income working families obtain safe and secure homes.

The group's newest CD, "Springtime for Liberals", features songs "Everything's Run by Pelosi", "Lust in Space", "A Leader Like Barack", and many more hilarious numbers. Don't miss this fantastically funny performance on February 2nd at the Music Hall in Portsmouth. With all that's been going on in politics lately, this is sure to be the funniest show ever!

Tickets are \$45 each and are available exclusively from the Music Hall box office by calling (603) 436-2400 or online at www.themusichall.org. This event is brought to you by contributions from Comcast Spotlight, Coldwell Banker Residential, Federal Savings Bank, PAX World Funds, RiverRun Bookstore, Secure Planning, Holloway Automotive, Key Partners Inc., Liberty Mutual Group, Marion Cohen Trust-TD Banknorth Wealth Mgt., Ocean Bank, Oppenheimer & Co., Provident Bank and Sheraton Harborside Portsmouth Hotel.

Founded in 1988, The Housing Partnership has created 227 affordable rental units in 11 communities around the seacoast. Its mission is to strengthen communities by providing quality affordable housing and related services to benefit low and moderate-income residents of the Greater Seacoast region of New Hampshire and Maine. The Portsmouth-based agency's work makes it possible for over 500 adults, children, seniors and disabled citizens to obtain secure homes each year and educates first-time homebuyers through its Homeward Bound Program. For more information, visit www.housingpartnership.org.

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