



**THE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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FREE HOMEBUYER EDUCATION OFFERED IN PORTSMOUTH

*Local Nonprofit Sees Education as
a Vital Tool for All Homebuyers*

Education is Key to Successful Homeownership

Portsmouth, NH - The Housing Partnership, a Portsmouth nonprofit organization, is offering a FREE comprehensive homebuyer education seminar in Portsmouth through its Homeward Bound Program.

Program participants learn the tools needed to navigate the complex process of buying a home and the skills required to be a successful homeowner. Homeward Bound is a HUD-approved homebuyer education course that satisfies counseling requirements of many special loan and down payment assistance programs.

“We bring together experienced professionals from real estate, mortgage and finance, consumer credit and home inspection fields. We’ve put together an education package that homebuyers won’t find anywhere else. It would take hundreds of hours of Internet research to gather all the information we provide, and even then, the web doesn’t offer the personalized attention that our seminars provide.”, says Program Director, Terry Spires.

The Homeward Bound program has educated over 1000 homebuyers its 8 year history. Despite the failing housing market and economy, Spires says program registrations have been their highest over the last couple years.

Spires says that program content is geared to first-time homebuyers, but even experienced buyers will benefit from participation. “It’s to the homebuyer’s advantage to stay current with what special programs and mortgage options are available and if they might be eligible, particularly this year with the possibility of innovative programs and policies being implemented by the new administration. Our program is an ongoing source for this information.”

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Topics covered in the course include the Nine Steps to Home Ownership, Building Your Financial House, Understanding Your Credit Report, Understanding Mortgage Terms, Shopping for a Mortgage, Shopping for a Home, Home Inspections, Closing on Your Home and Maintaining Your Home & Finances.

The organization hosts an all-day seminar on Saturday, February 7th, from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Portsmouth Public Library, 175 Parrot Avenue in Portsmouth.

In March, the sessions are hosted by Ocean Bank, 110 South Main Street in Rochester for the 4-night course which will meet on March 10, 11, 17 and 18th, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Pre-registration is required. Sign up online at www.housingpartnership.org, send an email to terry@housingpartnership.org or phone (603) 766-3120.

Founded in 1988, The Housing Partnership has developed over 225 affordable housing units in 11 communities around the Greater Seacoast region of New Hampshire and Maine. The agency's mission is to strengthen communities by creating diverse housing opportunities, utilizing innovative approaches to development, practicing strong stewardship of their housing and leading with visionary advocacy. THP envisions a Greater Seacoast where every community offers "housing for everyone."

The Portsmouth-based agency values economic sustainability, economic and social diversity and smart growth. THP has educated hundreds of first-time homebuyers through its Homeward Bound program and provides quality affordable housing for more than 500 adults, children, seniors and disabled citizens each year.

For more information about The Housing Partnership, visit www.housingpartnership.org.

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