



THE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2009

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THE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP HOSTS "BUILDING ON SUCCESS" ANNUAL CELEBRATION

The Housing Partnership Back in the Development Business

PORTSMOUTH, NH - The Housing Partnership, a nonprofit affordable housing development agency, hosted its annual gathering at the Sheraton Portsmouth Harborside Hotel on Wednesday, May 20th. The event featured keynote speaker Kathy Bogle Shields, Executive Director of New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) who spoke about the difficulties New Hampshire families face in hard economic times and the persistent need for affordable housing in the seacoast region. Ms. Shields also congratulated The Housing Partnership's board of directors for positioning the agency to address the housing needs of seacoast citizens.

Created in 1983, the Community Development Finance Authority supports affordable housing and economic development activities that benefit low and moderate income citizens in New Hampshire. New Hampshire, through CDFFA, has been awarded \$19.6 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program is designed to help address foreclosure problems in certain neighborhoods in order to make them more stable, sustainable and competitive.

At the invitation of CDFFA, The Housing Partnership has submitted a proposal to purchase and rehabilitate properties in a Rochester neighborhood that has a high number of foreclosures. Utilizing NSP funds, the agency will work with the City of Rochester to identify, restore and rehabilitate foreclosed properties for eventual sale to first time homebuyers. Work is expected to begin later this summer.

Jeff Gilbert, The Housing Partnership's Board President, credits the agency's new executive director, Marty Chapman, for his leadership and hard work in his former role as director of real estate for advancing the agency's housing development mission and for creating a "robust and exciting backlog of projects in the development pipeline", including projects slated for Rochester and Rye, NH.

Mr. Gilbert announced "The Housing Partnership is back in the development business", referring to the agency's 41 unit affordable housing development currently under construction in Kennebunk Maine, the agency's first development in several years.

The celebration also highlighted the presentation of awards to Melvin Low of Rye for the Community Catalyst Award; Richard Burbine accepted the Make a Difference Donor Award for Coldwell Banker

Residential Brokerage; Kathy Bogle Shields accepted the Partnership Award for NHCDFA; the Pro Bono Publico Award went to Drummond Woodsum & MacMahon of Portland ME; Resident of the Year Award was presented to Joel Thibeau, Kelly Collins and their children, Emily and Tyler; Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Dennis Williams of HouseMaster Home Inspections for his work with the agency's first time home buyer education program. Members of the agency's Capitol Steps event committee, Bill Cormier, Matthew Madeira, Carol McClard and Midge Nelson received Special Recognition Awards.

Founded in 1988, THP has created over 230 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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