



PRESS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY HOUSING PARTNERS RECEIVES **2010 ENERGYVALUE HOUSING AWARD**

Christiansburg, Va. – Community Housing Partners is excited to announce that it was awarded a 2010 Silver EnergyValue Housing Award[®] (EVHA) in the Affordable Home/Cold Climate Category from The NAHB Research Center, a subsidiary of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), on January 18 at the International Builders' Show in Las Vegas.

The award was for an all-new duplex housing unit designed and built by CHP in Blacksburg, Virginia that is friendly to both the environment *and* the wallet. The two homes, located at 401 Wilson Avenue, were developed in partnership by the Town of Blacksburg and CHP. The development is situated in an established neighborhood and was built for sale to low-to moderate-income households.

In addition to affordable mortgage financing and down payment assistance, the units also boast long-term savings. The cost of maintenance and upkeep of the homes is less than conventional housing because they were created with durable building materials and feature energy-efficient appliances and design elements.

"The duplex residents pay approximately 30% less for their utilities than in an ordinary house," said CHP Director of Homeownership Kamilia Lawson. "For homeowners in today's uncertain economy, going green is a highly relevant issue. It's important for the environment, but it's even more important for their bank accounts."

Other environmentally-responsible elements of the duplex include low-VOC paints and finishes, a solar thermal hot water system, advanced framing techniques, porous paving areas to reduce storm water runoff, and native landscaping.

The Wilson Avenue development was made possible by significant funding, including the donation of land, from the Town of Blacksburg's Housing and Neighborhood Services Office and the New River Valley HOME Consortium. In addition to real estate, public support includes down-payment assistance and project funding to further enhance the homes' affordability for qualified homebuyers. Other funders and partners include Housing Assistance Council; Virginia Housing Development Authority; NeighborWorks® America; Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises, Inc.; Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development; and SunTrust Mortgage.

Now in its 15th year, the EVHA is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy through its Building America program, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), in addition to the NAHB Research Center. The EVHA challenges builders to elevate standards for energy-efficient construction, provides educational opportunities for home builders, and fosters the adoption of energy efficiency principles.

About the NAHB Research Center:

The NAHB Research Center, located in Upper Marlboro, Md., promotes innovation in housing technology to improve the quality, durability, affordability, and environmental performance of homes and home building products. Created more than 40 years ago as a subsidiary of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), the NAHB Research Center has established itself as the source for reliable, objective information and research on housing construction and development issues. Through its various testing and certification services, the Research Center seal is internationally-recognized as a

mark of product quality and an assurance of product performance. Additional information about the Research Center is available at <http://www.nahbrc.com>.

About Community Housing Partners:

Community Housing Partners (CHP) is a 501(c)(3) Community Development Corporation established in 1975 to serve the needs of low-income and low-wealth individuals in the southeast. Our mission is to create affordable, green, sustainable housing opportunities and services for the people and communities we serve.

CHP's activities include sustainable development, architectural design, construction, energy services, homeownership, housing management, and resident and youth services. These efforts, in concert with public and private partnerships, enable us to create and sustain communities of choice that are environmentally friendly, economical to operate, attractive, well-maintained, and durable for the long term.

Since its inception, CHP has expanded its service area to encompass 3 states; assisted or produced more than 2,000 single-family houses; built a multi-family housing inventory of over 5,000 units; and assisted more than 189,500 individuals with their economic, housing, and social needs. Our clients include elderly people, women and children in transition, formerly-homeless people, single female heads-of-household, the chronically mentally ill, at-risk youth and other families and individuals of low-income and low-wealth.

CHP is a chartered member of NeighborWorks® America, and a member of both the Housing Partnership Network and the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises. For more information about CHP, visit www.communityhousingpartners.org or contact:

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