



MEDIA ALERT

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Community Housing Partners Receives \$368,250 Grant from NeighborWorks® America

Grant is an important boost for CHP's efforts

Christiansburg, Va. — Today **Community Housing Partners (CHP)**, a member of the national NeighborWorks® network, announced that it received \$368,250 in flexible grants from NeighborWorks® America, which will support **CHP's** affordable housing and community development activities at a time when communities need investment most.

"**CHP** is extremely grateful for the critical funding we have received from NeighborWorks America," said Janaka Casper, President and CEO of **CHP**. "This money will allow us to continue providing affordable, sustainable housing opportunities and services to previously underserved communities in Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida," added Casper.

In 2009, NeighborWorks America will provide over \$81 million in grants to its national network of more than 230 nonprofit organizations operating in over 4,400 rural, urban, and suburban communities, including those that are served by **CHP**. The grants will be used to revitalize and strengthen communities by providing counseling for homeowners on the brink of foreclosure; increasing the number of certified foreclosure and homeownership counselors through training; stabilizing areas hard-hit by the foreclosure and economic crisis by putting vacant properties back into productive use; empowering consumers through financial and homeownership education and counseling; creating homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families; and producing and managing affordable, high-quality rental properties.

"For every dollar in NeighborWorks® grants, an additional \$35 is invested in America's communities, resulting in a direct investment of nearly \$3 billion in the areas served," said NeighborWorks® America CEO Ken Wade. "As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, NeighborWorks® ensures our investments are working in ways that truly make a difference."

In fact, with funding from partners such as NeighborWorks, 2008 was a year of significant achievements for **CHP** and the communities it serves. In the past year, **CHP**:

- Acquired 112 units of affordable rental housing
- Rehabilitated 206 units and constructed 32 new units of affordable multifamily rental housing
- Educated and trained 3,801 people on affordable housing, energy efficiency, and other issues of sustainability at 254 venues across the United States and Canada
- Provided weatherization services (586 units), heating and cooling assistance (327 units), or emergency home repairs (144 units) to 1,057 families
- Conducted 783 Energy Audits
- Helped 37 families become first-time homeowners, including 15 families who purchased CHP developed single-family homes
- Provided homebuyer and financial literacy education to 251 families
- Provided pre-purchase (204) and foreclosure counseling (45) to 249 families
- Provided access to first and second mortgages and down payment/closing cost loans to 43 families
- Delivered 30,665 units of resident service programming to our residents
- Prevented 33 evictions through our CHP Residents Services Eviction Prevention Program
- Formed 72 new partnerships with local agencies to deliver resident services in our housing communities

CHP is a member of the NeighborWorks network, which was created by NeighborWorks America to improve homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families, provide financial education and improve financial literacy, rebuild and repair properties; develop affordable multifamily units, and, use innovative strategies to improve safety and revitalize communities across the nation.

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"We are grateful for the support from Congress and our other private, philanthropic and public funders who make our work possible," continued Wade.

For more information about NeighborWorks America, please contact Erin Angell Collins, 202-220-6317, ecollins@nw.org.

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 4,700 units; and assisted more than 175,000 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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