



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Roxane Hill

Community Housing of Wyandotte County, Inc.

(913)342-7580 - w

(913) 901-7863 - cell

rhill@chwconline.com

Local Community Development Organization recognized for achievement in housing

Kansas City – The Kansas Housing Conference awarded Community Housing of Wyandotte County (CHWC) the 2007 Ad Astra Award for Special Achievement in Affordable Housing Development – Urban & Suburban at its recent conference in Hutchinson, Kansas. The Ad Astra Awards for Excellence in Housing & Community Development honor the true trailblazers demonstrating outstanding excellence in developing affordable housing, shaping housing policy and creating innovative housing solutions to meet the daily needs of low and moderate-income Kansans. The awards celebrate individuals and organizations that consistently make a positive impact on their communities and showcase the best practices of developers, housing authorities, community service organizations, advocates and others.

CHWC is a community development corporation with a mission to stabilize, revitalize, and reinvest in communities through improved housing and other related developments. CHWC traces its roots to a social welfare outreach of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. Created in 1998 as Catholic Housing of Wyandotte County, the organization merged with Neighborhood Housing Services of Kansas City, Kansas in 2002 to become CHWC, Inc. In just a few years, CHWC has created exciting and sustainable change in the communities it serves.

Within its primary neighborhood service areas of Bethany, Chelsea, Prescott, Riverview, St. Benedict/St. Joseph, St. Peter/Waterway and Strawberry Hill, CHWC has built and rehabbed over 140 single family homes to date. CHWC is committed to the sustainability of these neighborhoods by increasing home ownership and increasing resident engagement.

CHWC's award winning Cathedral Pointe Development, in the St. Peter's neighborhood of Kansas City, Kansas is a \$24 million dollar project, when completed in late 2008 the development will have provided 150 new and rehabbed homes to a neighborhood that had not seen any investment or activity for over 40 years. This development began with a donation of land by the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas and to date over 50 homes have been completed and sold. With the support of the Unified Government with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) the important infrastructure and road improvement projects were also undertaken. The development tackled the problem of a lack good housing stock in the neighborhood, crime that is associated with abandoned homes, low rates of homeownership, and falling property values.

“We are honored to be recognized by the Kansas Housing Conference for our work in St. Peter's.” said Michael Avery, Executive Director and CEO of CHWC. “We are very proud of the Cathedral Pointe Development and know that it is providing housing opportunities for low-to-moderate income families that will impact their lives for generations to come while also creating sustainable change in one of the city's finest neighborhoods.”

CHWC's activities and developments are scattered throughout the urban core of Kansas City in particular, town homes in Strawberry Hill, new and rehabbed homes in St. Joseph/St. Benedict, restored historic Fire Station #9 in the Prescott neighborhood, and will soon begin development of a senior living campus on the site of the former Bethany Hospital in the Bethany neighborhood.

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