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For Immediate Release

**HOUSING PARTNERSHIP BEGINS SPRING SESSION OF
HOME MAINTENANCE TRAINING PROGRAM
FOR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOMEOWNERS IN S.E. QUEENS**

Enrollment Expands in Eight-week Home Maintenance Program
for Homeowners in Far Rockaway

New York, April 23, 2007 – The Housing Partnership, one of the nation’s largest producers of affordable housing, will sponsor the third session of its innovative, free public home maintenance training and repair program for low and moderate income homeowners in southeast Queens. Offered in partnership with Margert Community Corporation, the local non-profit housing agency, the program is funded by donations from Benjamin Beechwood, LLC, the Briarwood Organization, The Hudson Companies, Roslyn Savings Bank, Ridgewood Savings Bank, and HIP Health Plan of New York.

The program began in October 2006 and is offered to low- and moderate-income families. It was developed by the Housing Partnership to assist homeowners with maintaining their home investment. Many of the students are single mothers, a group that especially benefits from the program. Classes are limited to 20 persons in order to maximize the learning experience. The course is taught by Walter Mullins, a professional home repair expert.

In an effort to meet increased demand from the community, the Housing Partnership expanded the program in January to serve more low- and moderate-income homeowners in Far Rockaway. Due to its popularity and high enrollment, the Housing Partnership will begin the third, eight-week course on May 2nd.

“The Home Maintenance course is designed to provide homeowners with a skill set for home repair work and preventative maintenance. It also empowers and helps them to recognize the amount of work and actual cost in a contracted job to avoid home repair scams,” said Housing Partnership President and CEO Dan Martin. “This program is a great success. We are eager to begin the third session and continue to help homeowners in Far Rockaway maintain their investments.”

The eight weekly, two-hour sessions are held at a custom-fabricated workshop “set” built within the St. Gertrude’s gymnasium at 307 Beach 37th Street, Far Rockaway. Constructed by The Briarwood Organization with assistance from apprentice trainees recruited through the Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation, the workshop is divided into sections that include kitchen and bath plumbing modules, electrical wiring installations, easy-to-do energy efficiency measures, drywall surfaces and flooring areas. Work benches are provided for students. Each participant also receives *Dare to Repair*, a textbook provided by its publisher Harper and Collins.

The program is “hands-on” and provides instruction highlighting basic tool skills, hanging objects on walls and ceilings, molding installation, plumbing fixtures and repairs, electricity safety tips, repairs and installations, drywall and energy efficiency upgrades, painting and wallpapering.

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About The Housing Partnership

The Housing Partnership serves as New York City's primary intermediary for development of new, affordable homeownership housing on both public and private sites. And as a partner in fulfilling Mayor Bloomberg's housing plan, the Housing Partnership works with the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development to produce about 1,200 affordable housing units each year.

The Housing Partnership’s mission is to create affordable homes and revitalize neighborhoods through community development promoted by a dynamic partnership involving the public and private sectors. Established in 1982 by David Rockefeller and the Partnership for New York City, The Housing Partnership has developed more than 22,000 new affordable units and completed 8,000 renovations of rental apartments. The Housing Partnership’s developments have leveraged more than \$2.6 billion in private sector financing in over 50 neighborhoods.

About Margert

Margert Community Corporation administers federal, state and city housing programs to assist low and moderate income tenants and homeowners in the NYC metropolitan area.