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First Michigan Green Communities™ Award for Kingsbury Place in Walker
*Part of National Affordable Housing Effort to Ensure Healthier Homes,
More Opportunities for Americans with Limited Incomes*

LANSING, MICH. (February 27, 2006) – Michigan Green Communities™, a collaboration between the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), the Great Lakes Capital Fund (GLCF) and Enterprise, has made its first award to Genesis Non-Profit Housing Corporation to support the development of Kingsbury Place in Walker, Mich.

Kingsbury Place will provide green affordable housing to 44 individuals or families, including 29 for disabled low-income individuals who are chronically homeless or at-risk of homelessness and will receive on-site case management to ease access to services such as health care. The entire development will be handicap-accessible and each apartment will have a washer/dryer and high-speed Internet access.

“With support from Michigan Green Communities, Genesis is able to ensure a healthy living environment for the future residents of Kingsbury Place while keeping our operating costs low and having as little impact as possible on the environment,” said Harold J. Mast, executive director of Genesis Non-Profit Housing Corporation. Michigan Green Communities will provide a \$91,000 grant and approximately \$4.35 million in equity from the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program will also be received.

Added Mast “We are committed to provide a “green” environment to all of our future developments since we feel this is the only way low-income individuals and families can be provided healthy, safe, and affordable housing in the future. Our Kingsbury Place site is hopefully only the first of many future developments with the same energy saving and clean environmental concepts.”

EnergyStar appliances and water-efficient plumbing fixtures are just a few of the green features planned for Kingsbury Place. A large cistern will gather rainwater so it can be re-used in the sprinkler system and carpeting, paint and other building materials will meet the stringent environmental and health standards.

Kingsbury Place will be built on the site of an abandoned nursing home near Alpine Avenue and 4-Mile Road in Walker, Mich., which is in the northwest part of the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. The “green” site is conveniently located within walking distance of a grocery store and large shopping mall with numerous retail establishments and is linked to more jobs and services through public bus transportation that runs on the half hour. –more-

“Genesis Non-Profit Housing Corporation’s Kingsbury Place is a great example of the type of housing development Michigan Green Communities was designed to support – healthy, energy-efficient apartments for families in-need,” said Dana Bourland, senior program director for Enterprise Community Partners. “Michigan Green Communities is setting an example for affordable housing developers nationwide who think housing can’t be built to be affordable and green.”

“The Michigan State Housing Development Authority is pleased to be a part of the collaborative effort to bring this worthwhile project to completion,” said MSHDA Executive Director Michael DeVos. “Everyone deserves safe, decent affordable housing, and Kingsbury Place will improve the lives of families and individuals who have the fewest housing options by providing them a healthy living environment.”

“Great Lakes is excited to be on the leading edge with our two great partners, to bring the Green Movement to Michigan. The effect of this initiative will further serve our mission to create affordable, safe, healthy living environments, such as Kingsbury Place, for the citizens of Michigan,” said Mark McDaniel, Great Lakes Capital Fund president.

Michigan Green Communities brings \$70 million in equity from the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program as well as \$750,000 in grants, flexible financing and technical assistance to developers building affordable rental and for-sale housing across the state. This is part of the national Green Communities™ initiative, a five-year, \$555 million commitment to build more than 8,500 affordable homes that promote health, conserve energy and natural resources, and provides easy access to jobs, schools, and services.

One of green housing’s major selling points is that it means healthier homes. In Michigan alone, more than 3,000 children tested positive for lead poisoning in 2003, with approximately 20,000 children at risk for lead poisoning. More than 200,000 children in Michigan under the age of 18 have asthma.

Triangle Associates, Inc. of Grand Rapids is the general contractor of record and will use their LEED experience to ensure that the project meets the “Green Communities” criteria and that the documentation and construction processes are completed correctly and in a timely manner. They are proud to be of assistance to Genesis Non-Profit Housing Corporation and strive to maintain their leadership in green construction in the western Michigan area.

Michigan affordable housing developers that are interested in Michigan Green Communities can visit www.greencommunitiesonline.org/michigan for more information and to initiate the application process.

Green Communities is partnership of Enterprise, a premier national affordable housing and community development resource, and NRDC, a leading national environmental group, along with the American Institute of Architects, the National Center for Healthy Housing, the American Planning Association, and top corporate, financial and philanthropic organizations, including The Kresge Foundation.

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The response to Green Communities has been remarkable nationwide. In the first year alone, 77 developments are underway in 21 states, meaning more than 4,300 green homes for low-income families and \$179 million in financial support from Enterprise. This is more than doubled the production goals set out in Green Communities and 61 percent ahead of investment targets.

The 4,300 homes in the Green Communities development pipeline will reduce costs and consumption compared to conventionally built homes:

- \$1.5 million in energy savings per year (\$350 savings per household).
- More than 5,000 tons in reduced greenhouse gas emissions per year (2,340 fewer pounds per household).
- 30 million gallons in reduced water use per year (7,000 fewer gallons per household).

Michigan State Housing Development Authority is a quasi-state agency that provides financial and technical assistance through public and private partnerships to create and preserve decent, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income Michigan residents. Loans and operating expenses are financed through the sale of tax-exempt bonds and taxable bonds and notes to private investors, not from state tax revenues. For more information, visit: www.michigan.gov/mshda.

Great Lakes Capital Fund was established in 1993 to raise and invest equity in housing developments that are priced affordably for lower income households. It has invested nearly \$900 million to support the development of 15,000 homes. As a community development financial resource, the “Capital Fund” improves communities through its housing investments and its support for planning, economic development and youth development programs in Michigan and Indiana. For more information, visit: www.capfund.net.

Enterprise is a leading provider of development capital and expertise for creating decent, affordable homes and rebuilding communities. For more than two decades, Enterprise has pioneered neighborhood solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and others that share our vision. Enterprise has raised and invested \$7 billion in equity, grants and below-market loans and is currently investing in communities at a rate of \$1 billion a year. Visit www.enterprisecommunity.org to learn more about Enterprise's efforts to build communities and opportunity, and to meet some of the half a million people we have helped.

The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, non-profit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has more than 1 million e-activists and members, served from offices in New York, Washington, Santa Monica and San Francisco. More information is available at NRDC's Web site, www.nrdc.org.

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