



**From: Housing Partnership Development Corporation
450 Seventh Avenue
Suite 2401
New York, NY 10123**

**Contact: Melissa Schiltz, Director of Marketing and Development
(646) 217-3377/mschiltz@housingpartnership.com**

HOUSING PARTNERSHIP BEGINS REGISTRATION FOR FALL AND WINTER SESSIONS OF THE HOME MAINTENANCE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR HOMEOWNERS IN S.E. QUEENS

New York, June 23, 2008– The Housing Partnership, one of the nation’s largest producers of affordable housing, will sponsor the next two sessions of its innovative, free public home maintenance training and repair program for homeowners in southeast Queens. Offered in partnership with Margert Community Corporation, the local non-profit housing agency, the program is funded by donations from Allied Irish Bank, Benjamin Beechwood, LLC, the Briarwood Organization, The Hudson Companies, Long Island Board of Realtors, the Office of the Queens Borough President, Roslyn Savings Bank, Ridgewood Savings Bank, State Bank of Long Island, Senator Malcolm Smith, and HIP Health Plan of New York.

The program was developed by the Housing Partnership to assist homeowners with maintaining their home investment. 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.

“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 next sessions 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.

Due to the course's popularity, interested participants are encouraged to sign up early for the Fall and Winter courses to ensure their place. The Fall eight-week course will be held on Wednesdays beginning September 3, 2008. The Winter eight-week course will be held on Wednesdays beginning October 29, 2008. Participants can register by visiting www.margert.org or by calling 718-471-3724.

###

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.