

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca press release

YWCA York
320 East Market Street
York, PA 17403

Contact Information
Miesha Hill
T: 717-434-1761
mhill@ywcayork.org
www.ywcayork.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOMEOWNERSHIP PROJECT BEGINS IN YORK'S OLDE TOWNE EAST NEIGHBORHOOD

York, PA August 25, 2010—In 2007, YWCA York, York Housing Authority, and the CONE organization agreed to work together to achieve the goal of purchasing, rehabilitating and then selling vacant dilapidated housing units in the Olde Towne East neighborhood of the City. By turning these properties into stable owner occupied units, the health of the neighborhood and quality of life will be improved.

Today this joint effort has begun with the reconstruction of the first of four vacant housing units located on South Pine Street and East King Street. Over the next five years, plans are to complete a total of 25 housing units in a similar fashion.

The completed units will be sold to those who have incomes below 80% of the area's median income or \$44,000 for two people and \$54,950 for a family of four. Homebuyers must agree to reside in the unit for a minimum of five years. This requirement will be enforced through a deed restriction.

Olde Towne East neighborhood is an 18-block neighborhood just east of Downtown York bordered by Market and Prospect Streets and Queen and Broad Streets. It offers its current and potential residents unique architecture at affordable prices in close proximity to all the downtown amenities, including Martin Library, the new baseball stadium, Memorial Park's ice skating rink, theaters, and restaurants. Approximately 3,000 people live in Olde Towne East.

YHA and CONE have a proven track record in developing affordable rental and homeowner developments and the YWCA York launched the Olde Towne East Elm Street initiative in 2001. This project is being funded through the assistance of many public and private funding sources. The YHA and CONE each contributed \$100,000; the YWCA secured York \$248,000 through York City and County; and The Commonwealth's DCED awarded YHA \$300,000. M&T Bank is also partnering with the YWCA to contribute \$50,000 for housing activities as part of its NPP commitment.

Other private financial institutions contributions come from PNC Bank, Wells Fargo, and Sovereign/Santander. The local Grumbacher Foundation also generously contributed funds for this undertaking.

YWCA York's stated purpose is "to work proactively and collaboratively to provide programs that promote racial justice, empower women, and strengthen our community." YWCA York has been actively engaged in improvements to Olde Towne East, conducting a community planning process which resulted in the Community Renaissance Plan in 2001. The Elm Street Project, seeks to improve the social, economic, and physical conditions in the Olde Towne East neighborhood. The plan seeks to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood by strengthening community policing in the area, promoting homeownership, improving lighting and streetscapes, renovating dilapidated buildings, creating green space and play areas and redeveloping commercial properties. The YWCA and the City of York have leveraged over \$6 million to implement the plan

including funding from the Commonwealth's Elm Street Program, the PA Housing Finance Agency, and the Wachovia Regional Foundation.

The Housing Authority of the City of York (YHA) was created in 1949 with a mission "to provide safe, decent, affordable housing opportunities to people who are eligible, in a manner that encourages self-sufficiency". YHA has jurisdiction to administer its programs in the City and County owning and/or managing 1,065 rental units; a 1,565 voucher Section 8 Rental Assistance Program; and co-managing the York Towne House.

Creating Opportunities in Neighborhood Environments (CONE) is 501(c) 3 private non-profit organization which was created by the Housing Authority of the City of York (YHA) in 2001. Its mission is to develop, encourage, build, own, manage and/or operate and maintain decent, safe and sanitary, low income, affordable housing and related facilities to meet the needs of persons who are of moderate or limited income and to operate such housing in related facilities at an affordable cost so as to ensure success for independent living for those qualifying individuals. CONE has been approved by both the City of York and the County of York as a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) under the HUD HOME Partnerships Program. The Village Court and Waverly Court apartments were developed by YHA and CONE. Through this partnership, 24 new single family homes were available for first-time homeowner homes in Dover Township.

Extensive information on Olde Towne East's revitalization is available on the YWCA York website at www.ywcayork.org .

To learn more, please contact Richard Miller at 717-845-2631 ext.224, or visit the YWCA York online at www.ywcayork.org.

Founded in 1858 and headquartered in Washington, D.C., the YWCA is a women's membership movement whose mission is to eliminate racism and empower women. Strengthened by diversity, the YWCA draws together members who strive to create opportunities for women's growth, leadership and power to attain a common vision: peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all people. The YWCA represents approximately 2 million women, girls and their families in the United States and 25 million women worldwide. The YWCA has more than 300 associations throughout the United States. The World YWCA is at work in more than 100 other countries. For information about the YWCA or local YWCA associations, visit our website, www.ywca.org.

#####