



September 14, 2011

MEDIA ADVISORY

HANDS Celebrates 45 Years of Service in Northwestern Pennsylvania; Presents Community Service Awards

WHAT: On September 15th, HANDS will celebrate the accomplishments of the past 45 years while looking forward to more to come. Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS) began as a volunteer organization whose focus was to help neighbors with housing needs. Today, HANDS, a private not-for-profit organization, prides itself on “making stronger, more vibrant neighborhoods.” HANDS believes in a holistic approach for all residents by coordinating educational and supportive service opportunities to improve the quality of life for families, and by providing seniors the comfort and support of a community they can feel safe in. HANDS prides itself on the creation of four dozen housing developments resulting in the production of more than 1,000 units of affordable housing in nine counties across Pennsylvania.

HANDS is committed to making stronger and more vibrant neighborhoods in partnership with the communities it serves through the development and management of quality affordable housing. In addition to the new construction of affordable housing, HANDS has a tradition of selecting the ideal buildings to rehabilitate, creating unique living environments while keeping monthly costs affordable for all residents. HANDS has recently completed the North Coast Place Apartments at 332 West 18th, as well as the Pine Grove Subdivision in Fairview and the Ridgebury Apartments on West Ridge Road in Millcreek. The Woodlands at Zuck Park, a 30 townhome community in Millcreek, is currently under construction.

During the celebration, John E. Horan, Executive Director and Secretary of the Housing Authority of the City of Erie will be honored with the **Charles R. and Katherine L. Scalise Community Service Award** for his years of exceptional community service. Also being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award Posthumously is Donald C. Meyers, who distinguished himself as a community leader throughout his career, including his outstanding work in creating low-income housing and promoting community revitalization and economic development. Mr. Meyers passed away on April 7, 2011.

WHEN: Thursday, September 15, 2011 from 6:00-9:00PM, Program at 7:00PM.

WHERE: Erie Art Museum

INTERVIEWS: Charles Scalise, CEO HANDS – 814.881.0800 or cscalise@hands-erie.org
John Horan, Housing Authority of the City of Erie – 814.455.8045
John Schulze, Board Chairman, HANDS and Vice President, ERIE Bank – 868-7523

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