

PRESS RELEASE – July 15, 2004

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR NEW SINGLE FAMILY HOMES IN THE MID-TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD

Housing and Neighborhood Development Service will hold its official groundbreaking ceremony for Mid-Town Homes Phase 2B tomorrow July 16, 2004 at 11a.m. The event will take place at 13th and German Streets and will be followed by a luncheon at Matthew's Trattoria.

The development includes 4 two-story and 1 ranch home, which will be made available for immediate homeownership to 5 income-eligible families. Homes are approximately 1200 sq. ft. and feature 3 bedrooms and one and one-half baths. Two of the five homes have been sold. Homeowners will receive pre- and post-purchase counseling, a career assessment and will participate in a Neighborhood Homeowner's Association.

Financing for the development was made possible through public and private sources including the City of Erie HOME Investment Partnership Program, Erie County Act 137, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, and PNC Bank. Construction began in June and is scheduled for completion in late December.

Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS) is a housing development and non-profit property-management organization dedicated to providing safe, decent and affordable housing. HANDS was founded in 1967 by a group of community activists who were committed to providing affordable housing for the people in the central city mall neighborhood. Thirty-seven years later HANDS has development thousands of units of affordable housing for lower-income people in communities throughout Northwestern Pennsylvania. Our housing includes rental apartments for families, seniors and people with disabilities, a homebuyer rehabilitation program and now newly constructed homes for first-time homeowners.

For more information contact:
Housing and Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS)
ATTN: Charles G. Scalise
502 East 12th Street
Erie, PA 16503
Phone (814) 459-1047/Fax (814) 456-0922