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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2005

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HELPING PUBLIC HOUSING FAMILIES MOVE FORWARD
CHA honors local organizations that help improve residents' lives

Sharing an understanding that it will take more than a change of address to alter the lives of thousands of public housing families involved in the unprecedented "Plan for Transformation," dozens of Chicago organizations have stepped forward over the past few years to offer their services. These organizations help provide vital resources to CHA residents including access to employment and educational opportunities, social services, recreational programs for children and other needed services. CHA recently honored ten such organizations for their unique efforts to improve the lives and communities of public housing residents.

"We all share a common agenda – to build healthy communities that support healthy families," said CHA CEO Terry Peterson. "All of these partners, along with so many others, have helped improve the lives of public housing residents in some way and we're very grateful to them. With their efforts, the doors of opportunity can fully be opened."

Those honored were:

- 1. Chicago Community Trust** - Co-founders of The Partnership for New Communities, the Chicago Community Trust also supports programs and organizations that provide targeted assistance to special CHA populations. This has included specialized support for CHA Grandfamilies, the development of a program for 10 to 14 year old boys, technology training for seniors and service provision for non-lease holding families.
- 2. Chicago Park District** - The Chicago Park District has helped the CHA by marketing summer programmatic opportunities for residents and tracking their utilization. They continue to be an important recreational source, particularly for young CHA children.
- 3. Chicago Youth Centers-Camp Rosenthal** - CYC provides overnight camping experiences for CHA youth. This summer, 200 CHA children will attend their residential camp in Michigan.
- 4. CNA Insurance** – A member of CHA's employment partnership program, CNA also fully sponsored the partner appreciation reception and provided space to the CHA for the partners to gather.
- 5. John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation** – MacArthur has provided sustained, strategic support for the Plan for Transformation, and support to organizations working with CHA residents and the surrounding communities. Together with the Chicago Community Trust, the MacArthur Foundation helped establish the Partnership for New Communities to support mixed-income development. Thus far, MacArthur has committed over \$18 million dollars to support the Plan for Transformation.
- 6. Leadership Greater Chicago** - Leadership Greater Chicago fellows are committed to community service activities with residents of Rockwell Gardens and are currently working to develop resident employment opportunities among its alumni.
- 7. Roosevelt University**- Roosevelt University has partnered with the CHA's Wentworth Gardens, providing scholarships for Wentworth residents to attend the University, internship

(more)

opportunities for those in high school, as well as providing faculty, staff and students to perform many hours of community service in the development.

8. Toys “R” Us - Over the past four years, Toys “R” Us has helped to make the Christmas season brighter for CHA children by providing over \$200K worth of toys.

9. Wayman AME Church - This faith-based partner responds directly to the needs of Cabrini-Green residents by offering development opportunities such as employment training, mentoring and after-school programming for “at-risk” youth as well as helping oversee community meetings.

10. Windows of Opportunity - As the primary sponsor of scholarships for CHA residents, Windows has assisted over 150 students with obtaining college degrees. Windows also supports several CHA food pantries, music cultivation for CHA children, and assists the Authority with other philanthropic endeavors.

The Partnership for New Communities (www.thepartnershipfornewcommunities.org), formed by some of the honorees, is an organization that was developed to support the goals of the Plan for Transformation. The Partnership, made up of business, civic and not-for-profit leaders, solicits funds and invests them in economic development, community building and employment-related initiatives to bring about large-scale improvements to the neighborhoods most affected by public housing transformation.

The Chicago Housing Authority (www.thecha.org) is in the sixth year of its 10-year Plan for Transformation, a \$1.6 billion effort to rebuild or rehab 25,000 units of public housing for low-income families and seniors citizens, and turn isolated neighborhoods of poverty into healthy, mixed-income communities.

For more information on the CHA’s specific programs and partnerships, please contact Zenobia Johnson-Black, CHA’s Manager of Outreach and External Partnerships, at 312-742-1452.

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