

# Media & Community Advisory

## **Area Companies Support Affordable Housing Polk County Housing Trust Fund Receives Major Checks**

(Des Moines, June 2010) The “go to” organization for affordable housing is receiving support from Greater Des Moines companies. In the past few weeks the Polk County Housing Trust Fund (PCHTF) received \$50,000 from Wells Fargo, \$50,000 from Principal Financial Group Foundation, and \$20,000 from the William C. Knapp Endowment.

“Housing is the core of stable families, focused employees and successful communities,” said Sheila Lumley, Executive Director/Polk County Housing Trust Fund. “Employers and community leaders recognize affordable housing is more than a social issue. It is also an economic development issue – with both challenges and opportunities.”

Since its inception, PCHTF has funded over 9,686 affordable housing units, of which 1,314 were new-construction and 8,372 were rehabilitated single-family homes, duplexes and apartments in the Greater Des Moines area. Some of the rehabilitated units are on the National Registry of Historic Places and all were in desperate need of organizations to provide services for more attractive buildings and safer neighborhoods. Over 90% of the tenants that reside in these buildings are employed, but earn less than \$35,850 a year for a family of four; 56% of those families earn under \$21,500 per year.

Wells Fargo is one of several area companies who have been a longstanding supporter of PCHTF with financial contributions of almost \$200,000 over the past five years.

“As a major employer and community partner we see firsthand the critical importance affordable housing has in the lives of employees, friends, family and the overall economic vibrancy of the Des Moines area shared Kim Jones, Community Development Officer of Wells Fargo. “It’s a blessing to have a trusted steward of resources such as PCHTF and know that the time and money we invest is having the greatest, most positive possible impact.”

### **About PCHTF:**

The Polk County Housing Trust Fund was established in 1995 and for 15 years has been a leader in addressing the need for affordable housing in central Iowa and in acting as a steward of resources for nonprofit partners who serve a common mission. Those agencies include Anawim Housing, Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity, Community Housing Initiatives (CHI), Home Opportunities Made Easy Inc. (HOME Inc.), and Hawthorn Hill–The Home Connection. **Web Site:** [www.pchtf.org](http://www.pchtf.org)

### **Visuals or Interviews:**

To request a list of properties for photos/video – or to schedule an interview, please contact –  
Sheila Lumley, Executive Director/Polk County Housing Trust Fund  
E-mail: [slumley@pchtf.org](mailto:slumley@pchtf.org)  
Office: (515) 282-3233 ext. 1 or Mobile: (515) 490-0233