



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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*\* Your coverage is welcome*



**EAST HOUSE TO CELEBRATE LARGEST GIFT EVER RECEIVED; A GIFT  
FROM THE ESTATE OF FOUNDER PAUL WOLK**

East House will hold a celebration luncheon on **June 8, 2010, at 12:00 noon at Locust Hill Country Club**, commemorating the largest gift ever received...a bequest in the amount of \$434,848 from the estate of the late Paul Wolk.

In addition to being one of the founders of East House in 1966, Wolk's gift will ensure that his positive influence on the lives of those coping with mental illness and substance abuse will continue for many years to come.

East House Corporation serves individuals recovering from mental illness and chemical dependency. The gift will benefit the agency's endowment fund, whose earnings contribute to program enhancements.

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“This gift represents the enormous legacy Mr. Wolk left to our community in general, and East House in particular,” said Gregory Soehner, President of East House Corporation. “We have grown from one group home in 1966, to a \$9 million dollar organization, serving 1,000 individuals each year, all who find hope here, in no small part, thanks to Mr. Wolk.”

In 1966, Paul Wolk, along with Hettie Shumway, Justice David Boehm, Ralph Collins, MD, James Sterner, MD, and Hilton Hedrick, came together to form East House, only the second community-based group home for people recovering from Mental Illness in the country at that time. They contributed their time, expertise, and personal resources to establish an agency that would help people with histories of mental illness and drug dependency to lead healthier, more productive and more satisfying lives. That year, a group home was opened on Dartmouth Street, east of downtown Rochester, and the name East House stuck. Today, East House serves more than 1,000 people each year, through residential, rehabilitation and career service programs provided in nine group homes, five offices and hundreds of apartments.

Members of the East House Board of Directors, Administration and guests will attend the June 8<sup>th</sup> luncheon, entitled “Building on Our Past, and Planning for the Future.” Soehner will share recent agency successes, as well as plans for the gift and for the future. Sheila Wolk, Paul’s widow, will travel from Hume, Virginia, to attend the event. Wolk’s daughter, Judy Samloff will also be present, along with her husband, Harold. Marvin Wolk, Paul’s nephew, will also attend the event.

East House is a private, non-profit rehabilitation agency, funded by New York State, Monroe County, United Way, client fees and private donations. ***Your coverage is welcome. For more information, call (585) 256-3800, ext. 231.***

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