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Community Partners Break Ground for Paul Wolk Commons

Green, mixed-use property to feature 45 affordable apartments with on-site supportive services

ROCHESTER, NY – July 15, 2011 -- [East House Corporation](#) (East House), [Providence Housing Development Corporation](#), and [Enterprise Community Investment, Inc.](#) (Enterprise) broke ground on Friday for the construction of Paul Wolk Commons, a 45-unit mixed-use, affordable development that will feature on-site supportive services for residents with mental illness. The \$8.6 million dollar development is an adaptive reuse of a vacant parking garage located in the heart of downtown Rochester.

Financing for the development was provided by New York State Homes & Community Renewal (HCR), the New York State Office for Mental Health (OMH), the [Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program](#), and the [Community Preservation Company](#). Enterprise Community Investment, Inc. (Enterprise) provided a \$5.1 million Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) equity investment. Paul Wolk Commons is expected to meet the [Enterprise Green Communities Criteria](#), the first national framework for building green affordable housing and community buildings.

“The development of these apartments represents the most significant step for East House since the opening of our first group home on Dartmouth Street in 1966,” said Greg Soehner, president of East House. “We look forward to building a great home for our clients for decades to come, consistent with our philosophy of community-integrated housing for those with disabilities, and additional affordable housing options for those in need of quality housing.”

Senator Joe Robach noted that the project will revitalize the State Street area, just a block from Kodak’s corporate headquarters and Frontier Field. The future apartment building is currently a vacant parking lot that served Kodak executives beginning in 1927. Said [Raoul Moore](#), senior vice president of Syndication at Enterprise. “We commend the partnership between East House and Providence Housing Development Corporation and our other team members who brought this project to fruition, as it will provide critically needed affordable housing coupled with supportive services to residents of the development.”

All of the units in Paul Wolk Commons Apartments will be targeted to residents earning up to 50% of area median income. Thirty units will be licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and provide 100% rent subsidy to individuals with persistent mental illness. The development will also include a 2,000 square-foot of common space that East House will use to operate supportive services for the residents.

“Rochester is currently experiencing a drastic shortage of quality affordable rental housing. Paul Wolk Commons will allow East House to better serve their clients, as well as expand the supply of rental housing for the Rochester community as a whole,” said Monica McCullough, executive director of Providence Housing. “We are thrilled to add to the momentum and excitement of residential living in center city Rochester.”

Property amenities will include 24-hour staffing and security, on-site property management and maintenance, central air, laundry facilities, community room, game and television lounge, library, fitness center, interior and exterior courtyards, and on-site parking. Apartment living areas and bedrooms will be carpeted while kitchens and bathrooms will be finished in ceramic tile. Five units will be fully handicapped accessible, with two additional units adapted for the hearing or visually impaired.

Paul Wolk Commons, named after one of the founders of East House, will open in the Spring of 2012. Interested applicants should contact Providence Housing at 585-328-3228 ext. 1393 to be placed on an interest list.

For more information, call 585-256-3800, ext. 231.

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East House is a private, non-profit rehabilitation agency that provides residential, rehabilitation and career services to individuals recovering from mental illness and/or chemical dependency. More than 1,000 clients and their families are served each year, in nine group homes, four offices, a Career Center, and more than 200 apartments. East House is funded by New York State, Monroe County, United Way, client fees and private donations. Visit www.easthouse.org for more information.

Providence Housing is a not-for-profit corporation affiliated with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester. Providence Housing develops, finances and manages housing for individuals and families in the twelve counties of the Diocese of Rochester. Providence has developed more than 800 units of affordable housing since its creation in 1994 and manages a portfolio of more than 650 apartments. Visit www.providencehousing.org for more information.

Enterprise is a leading provider of the development capital and expertise it takes to create decent, affordable homes and rebuild communities. For nearly 30 years, Enterprise has introduced neighborhood solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and others that share our vision. Enterprise has raised and invested more than \$11 billion in equity, grants and loans to help build or preserve more than 280,000 affordable rental and for-sale homes to create vital communities. Visit www.enterprisecommunity.org and www.enterprisecommunity.com to learn more about Enterprise's efforts to build communities and opportunity.