It’s Easy Being Green!

by Milda Grigaite

At least two new “green” homes in Chicago are actually red and white. The two are among five models for green — or sustainable development — homes in a pilot project in the city.

The City of Chicago departments of Environment and Housing are building single-family homes that meet green standards and are efficient in design, construction, and maintenance. Green standards include energy efficiency, use of recycled building materials, natural sunlight, and stormwater management best practices to keep water on site. Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Chicago, a nonprofit organization working to revitalize low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in the city, served as the green homes’ developer.

Five green homes are scattered, with three in the Englewood neighborhood and two on the city’s Northwest Side. Architects from around the country developed various methods for incorporating energy efficient and environmentally friendly practices into affordable homeownership. The five winners had decidedly different perspectives on how to create affordable, energy-efficient houses within the context of existing neighborhoods.

In the Hermosa neighborhood, two model homes live side-by-side. Chicago-based Ross Architecture’s winning design for a site on North Keeler Avenue focused on three...
Boosts, Cuts in FY 2005 Spending

Congress approved a spending bill over the November 20-21 weekend that gave modest increases in funding for nutrition aid and rental assistance for poor families, but some other programs for the poor were cut. (See Omnibus Bill on page 1.)

The nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) received its largest budget ever, $5.2 billion, up from $4.6 billion in the last fiscal year. Experts said this should be sufficient to serve the eight million families that are expected to apply for aid. In a reflection of a growing need among the working poor, demonstrated in lengthening lines at food banks and pantries, Congress approved an increase of nearly $1.5 billion in the food stamp program.

The Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program was allocated an increase of more than 15 percent, to $2.2 billion this year from $1.9 billion last year. However, the increase in the program, which helps poor people meet their winter home-heating costs, lags far behind increases in fuel prices.

For more information, contact the Fppd Research and Action Council (FRAC) at the address in Headlines Directory.

New HUD Section 8 Voucher Regs

HUD has released FY 2005 Section 8 regulations for tenant-based vouchers. To view the notice and related documents, go to: www.hud.gov/offices/pih/index.cfm

Statewide Housing Action Coalition and Housing Partners of Kankakee present...

Homebuyer Education Methods Training for Trainers

Date: January 24-28
Location: Illinois Community Action Association, 3435 Liberty Drive, Springfield

Learn how to deliver a comprehensive homebuyer education program based on the curriculum that NeighborWorks® organizations across the country are using to turn thousands of prospective homebuyers into satisfied homeowners. Learn to use the best materials and methods to train homebuyers to shop for a home, get a mortgage loan, improve their budget and credit profiles and maintain their home and finances after purchase.

Registration
Deadline: January 7, 2005
Tuition:
$400.00 for Statewide Housing Coalition members,
$500.00 for nonmembers.

Limited scholarships available. Registration priority will be given to Housing Counseling Agencies participating in the Statewide Employer Assisted Housing Initiative. A limited number of hotel rooms have been reserved at a reduced rate of $65.00 per night at The Fairfield Inn, 3446 Freedom Drive, Springfield, (217)793-9277.

For more information or for registration materials, contact:
Brenda Grauer
Statewide Housing Action Coalition
11 E. Adams #1501
Chicago, IL 60603
Telephone: (312) 939-6074
Fax: (312) 939-6822
Email: Brenda@statewidehousing.org

The Illinois Community Action Association has published the monthly Homeless Headlines and the Homeless Hotline since 1991 under contract with the Illinois Department of Human Services.

For a free subscription, contact:
Illinois Community Action Association
3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62704
Telephone: (217) 789-0125
Fax: (217) 789-0139
www.icaanet.org
The percentage of Americans experiencing hunger remained unchanged from 2002 to 2003, according to a report released last month by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The report, which was based on annual survey data by the U.S. Census Bureau, revealed that about 9.6 million Americans, or 3.4 percent of the U.S. population, went hungry at least some time during the year, because they did not have enough money for food. Among that number were about 420,000 children (0.6 percent of all U.S. children) from some 207,000 families (0.5 percent of U.S. households with children).

Further analysis by the Food Research and Action Council (FRAC) however revealed that the numbers and percentages for adults and households facing hunger and food insecurity have risen steadily from 1999 to 2003. FRAC pointed out that the total number of people living in food insecure households – with or without hunger – rose to 36.3 million in 2003, compared to 34.9 million in 2002, 33.6 million in 2001, 33.2 million in 2000, and 31 million in 1999.

In addition to the national figures, the USDA report includes state-by-state data on the number of people who experienced food insecurity and hunger over the three-year period of 2001-2003. To view the complete report, visit www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fannr42/

To view the statement released by FRAC, see www.frac.org/Press_Release/11.19.04.html

For further information, contact the Food Research and Action Center at the address in Headlines Directory.
Being Green
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priorities: sunlight, ventilation, and insulation. The interior space centers around a solar atrium. The atrium projects above the roofline to capture direct southern light, illuminating the heart of the home and providing direct solar heat in winter. Photovoltaic solar panels on the roof cut the electricity bill by a third. The house features many reused components, including recycled doors from the 1920s.

Annette Conti, NHS construction and project manager, noted that the house reminded her of 1920s California Arts and Crafts style. The house is accessible to people with disabilities, and the family who bought it has a member with a disability. Douglas Ross, president of the Ross Architecture believes that “if [other local] architects and builders start to address energy efficiency and (add) solar atriums, lightening the central part of the house could become a regional characteristic of Chicago.”

The neighboring house, a fire-engine red structure, was designed by San Francisco- and Chicago-based EHDD Architects, the same group that did the master plan for the Shedd Aquarium. The house is called a Factor 10 House because it reduces environmental impacts by a factor of 10 compared to the average home built in the United States. The green design focuses on stormwater management so that no water goes off the site into the sewer system. The roof, vegetated with plants, minimizes storm water runoff. A swale (a drainage depression) planted with native plants, grasscrete — paving that allows water to penetrate into the soil — for car parking in the backyard, and prairie vegetation in front all reduce rainwater runoff.

Inside the house, there is a “bottle wall,” a wall of recycled drinking water bottles, that acts as a heat “sink” in winter, collecting the sun’s heat by day and slowly emitting the heat during the night.

An open floor plan enhances cross-ventilation, while the careful placement of windows maximizes reflected light into the interior of the home, reducing glare. Marc L’Italien, principal in EHDD, explained that the house “uses tried-and-true principles and goes back to basics.” He believes people would get a clearer picture of what can be done to protect the environment if they saw more such housing being built in their neighborhoods.

The model homes were built and opened to the public in summer 2003. Four of the homes are already sold. The City will monitor them for 18 months to draw lessons for future green housing programs.

Resources

- Annette Conti, NHS, (773) 928-0241
- Cary Gordon, Department of Environment, (312) 744-3636
- Angy Marks, Department of Housing, (312) 747-0766
- Doug Ross, Ross Architects, (773) 327-1616
- Marc L’Italien, EHDD Architects, (312) 655-0690

For further information, contact:

Ellen Shubart, Manager
Campaign for Sensible Growth
25 East Washington, Suite 1600
Chicago, IL 60602
Telephone (312) 863-6009
Fax (312) 922-5619

Milda Grigaite was a research assistant for the Campaign for Sensible Growth through December 2003.

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As part of the Working Poor Families Project, the Annie E. Casey, Ford, and Rockefeller Foundations have released, “Working Hard, Falling Short: America’s Working Families and the Pursuit of Economic Security.” The report uses recent national and state data to give a more complete view of the difficulties that low income working families have in achieving economic security.

According to the report, one in four working families earns less than two times the poverty standard, the standard the authors use to define “low income.” This amounts to 9.2 million low income working families in the United States. Of these families, 2.5 million earn less than $18,392 for a family of four, putting them officially in poverty. The report finds that in 2002, 52% of all low income working families and fully 75% of those living in poverty pay more than a third of the family’s income on housing.

Aside from housing, researchers found a variety of other reasons for why low income families could not achieve economic security, even when working full time. They observed that inadequate education and work force development, low wages and poor benefits, differing laws and funding in different states, and outdated government policies accounted for why working hard does not seem to lead directly to the American Dream for these families.

To view this report and find out more about the Working Poor Families Project, see: www.aecf.org/initiatives/jobsinitiative/workingpoor.htm.

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### View of Low Income Working Families

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### “Reinvented”

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are on a waiting list for the incentives. The interim rule establishes a maximum time on the waiting list of 15 months and allows borrowers to then stay on the list, withdraw from the list and continue to offer affordable housing, or sell the property to a nonprofit organization. Where borrowers do prepay, tenants will get a letter of priority entitlement, giving them priority in RHS-financed housing elsewhere. If such housing is not available, the impacted tenants may face displacement or increased rents.

The interim rule also eliminates the requirements for interim rent recertifications for tenants’ monthly income changes of less than $100. Further, the interim rule provides some protections so that tenants’ contribution to rent will not increase if rental assistance is terminated due to actions by the property borrower/owner, e.g., when rental assistance payments decrease due to a default by the borrower/owner. And, rental assistance can be transferred from one property to another (after the property has been unused for six months).

The rule makes numerous changes regarding property maintenance, reserves and rent levels for loan originations, loan servicing, replacement reserve set-asides and preservation. There is also a new section on cost reasonableness for the evaluation of project proposals. Here, RHS recognizes the long-term cost savings that can occur after higher-than-usual initial investment. These include, for example, the long term cost savings offered by brick exteriors and increased thermal standards.

The interim rule also consolidates separate program regulations for the Farm Labor Housing loan and grant program, with separate subparts remaining for on-farm labor housing and off-farm labor housing.

The definition of “nonprofit organization” is changed so that “more nonprofit organizations are eligible for participation in the Agency’s multifamily direct loan programs. Most notably, the aspects of the definition that describe local and regional nonprofit organizations have been broadened.”

For more information on the interim final rule, RIN 0575-AC13, or how to comment, go to rdinit.usda.gov/regs. (A copy of the letter requesting extension of the comment period will be available at www.nlihc.org.)

For further information, contact CSH at the address in Headlines Directory.

### CSH Funding Directory

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) has developed an online directory of federal financing resources for supportive housing. The directory may be found at: www.csh.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.viewPage&pageId=330.

For further information, contact CSH at the address in Headlines Directory.
Areas of Interest: Families and children in crisis, the distribution of food to hungry Americans, economic opportunity for minorities; programs for the physically and mentally challenged. Homelessness. Aging; aging centers/services; children/youth services; family services; family services-parent education; food services; government/public administration; health care; homeless human services; human services; mental health/crisis services; minorities; voluntarism promotion.

Types of Support: Continuing support; employee matching gifts; equipment; internship funds; matching/challenge support; program development. Limitations: Giving on a national basis. No support for sectarian religious organizations or veterans’ or labor organizations.

Applications Information: The Community Relations Department handles giving. The company has a staff that only handles contributions. An application form is not required. Applicants should submit a detailed description of the project and amount of funding requested. The initial approach is to send the proposal to headquarters. Only one copy is requested. There are no deadlines stated and final notification is within two months.

Washington Square Health Foundation, Inc.
875 N. Michigan Ave., Ste 3516
Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: 312-664-6488
Fax: 312-644-7787
Email: washington@wshf.org
URL: www.wshf.org

Contact: Howard Nochumson, Executive Director

Areas of Interest: Primary health care medical and nursing education scholarships, direct health care services. Aging; AIDS; AIDS research; crime/violence prevention-domestic violence; disabled; gays/lesbians; health care; homeless; immigrants/refugees; minorities; nursing care; nursing home/convalescent facility; people with AIDS (PWAs); women.

Types of Support: Equipment; fellowships; matching/challenge support; program development; program-related investments; research; scholarship funds; seed money.

Limitations: Giving primarily in the Chicago, Illinois area. No grants to individuals, or for general operating or administrative expenses, land

(employee matching gifts; employee volunteer services; general/operating support; in-kind gifts; loaned talent; program development; sponsorships; use of facilities. Limitations: Giving on a national basis. No support for sectarian religious organizations or veterans’ or labor organizations.

Applications Information: The Community Relations Department handles giving. The company has a staff that only handles contributions. An application form is not required. Applicants should submit a detailed description of the project and amount of funding requested. The initial approach is to send the proposal to headquarters. Only one copy is requested. There are no deadlines stated and final notification is within two months.

Washington Square Health Foundation, Inc.
875 N. Michigan Ave., Ste 3516
Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: 312-664-6488
Fax: 312-644-7787
Email: washington@wshf.org
URL: www.wshf.org

Contact: Howard Nochumson, Executive Director

Areas of Interest: Primary health care medical and nursing education scholarships, direct health care services. Aging; AIDS; AIDS research; crime/violence prevention-domestic violence; disabled; gays/lesbians; health care; homeless; immigrants/refugees; minorities; nursing care; nursing home/convalescent facility; people with AIDS (PWAs); women.

Types of Support: Equipment; fellowships; matching/challenge support; program development; program-related investments; research; scholarship funds; seed money.

Limitations: Giving primarily in the Chicago, Illinois area. No grants to individuals, or for general operating or administrative expenses, land

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Private Resources (Continued from page 6)

acquisition or construction.

**Application Information:** Annual report is available on foundation website, as well as, application guides, procedures, and grant application form. An application form is required. The foundation prefers an initial approach to be sending the application – four copies are required. The deadlines are June 1 and December 1; the board meets in January, May, August, and December. Final notification will be by letter.

**W. P. and H. P. White Foundation**

540 Frontage Rd., Ste. 3240
Northfield, IL 60093
Telephone: 847-446-1441

**Contact:** M. Margaret Blandford, Executive Director

**Areas of Interest:** Education, health, and human services, emphasis on those most in need. Children/youth services; economically disadvantaged; education; health care; hospitals (general), housing/shelter development; human services; minorities; urban/community development. **Types of Support:** Annual campaigns; continuing support; general/operating support; program development. **Limitations:** Giving primarily in the metropolitan Chicago area. No grants to individuals or for land acquisition; endowment funds; publications; conferences; deficit financing; or visual or performing arts; no loans.

**Application Information:** An application form is not required, but applicants should submit the following:

- Population served
- Copy of IRS Determination Letter
- Brief history of organization and description of its mission
- Copy of the most recent annual report/audited financial statement/990.
- Listing of board of directors, trustees, officers, and other key people and their affiliations.
- Detailed description of project and amount of funding requested
- Copy of current year’s organizational budget and/or project budget.
- Listing of additional sources and amount of support.

The foundation prefers an initial approach to be the proposal; one copy. The board meets in March, June, September, and December. The deadlines are: February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1. Final notification will be within several weeks.

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**Woodward Governor Company Charitable Trust**

5001 N. 2nd Street
Rockford, IL 61125-7001

**Contact:** Pam Johnson, Chair., Contributions Committee

**Areas of Interest:** Children/youth services”; community development; crime/violence prevention-youth; disabled; economically disadvantaged; federated giving programs; food services; health care; health organizations; homeless; homeless human services; housing/shelter development; human services; minorities; minorities/immigrants centers/services. **Limitations:** Giving primarily in areas of company operations, including Rockford, Illinois. No grants to individuals, or for endowment funds; research; special projects; publications; or conferences; no loans and no matching gifts.

**Application Information:** An application form is not required, but applicants should submit:

- Detailed description of project and the amount of funding requested.
- Copy of IRS Determination Letter

The initial approach should be a letter with one copy of the proposal. The board meets as required. Deadlines state that the proposal should be submitted in March or July. The information states that there is no set deadline. Final notification would be within eight weeks.
Center for Community Change
1000 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20007
Phone: (202) 342-0567
Fax: (202) 342-5462
http://www.communitychange.org

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
820 First Street, NE, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20002
Ph: (202) 408-1080
Fax: (202) 408-1056
http://www.cbpp.org

Coalition of Citizens With Disabilities
300 E. Monroe, Suite 100
Chicago, IL 60603
Telephone: (312) 435-4548
Fax: (312) 435-0198
http://www.enteract.com/~cch/

Corporation for Supportive Housing
1 W. LaSalle, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312/697-6125
Fax: 312/346-7280
Email: il@csh.org
www.csh.org

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1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, # 540
Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone: (202) 986-2200
Fax: (202)986-2525
foodersearch@frac.org

Housing Assistance Council
1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 606
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 842-8600
Fax: (202) 347-3441
http://www.ruralhome.org

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
801 S. 11th
Springfield, IL 62703
Telephone: (217) 789-2830
Fax: (217) 789-1939
http://www.ilcadv.org

Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness
Matthew Hanafee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 3956
Oak Park, IL 60303-3956
Telephone: (708) 263-3590
Email: ILHomeless@aol.com

Illinois Community Action Association
3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: (217) 789-0125
Fax: (217) 789-0139
http://www.icaanet.org

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
620 E. Adams, CIPA-3
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 785-6142
Fax: (217)792-1206
http://www.commerce.state.il.us/

Illinois Department of Human Services
Homeless Services and Supportive Housing
800 W. Lawrence, 2C
Springfield, IL 62762
Telephone: (217) 782-1317
Fax: (217) 524-6029
http://www.state.il.us/agency/dhs/

Illinois Food Bank Association
P.O. Box 8283
Springfield, IL 62791
Telephone: (217)522-4022
E-mail: cifbank@aol.com

Illinois Housing Development Authority
401 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: (312) 836-5200
Fax: (312) 836-5286
TDD: (312) 836-5222
http://www.ihda.org

Illinois Special Needs Housing Corporation
3415 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: (217) 789-0125
Fax: (217) 789-0139
http://www.icaanet.org

National Alliance to End Homelessness
1518 K Street, NW, Suite 206
Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone: (202) 638-1526
Fax: (202) 638-4664
E-mail: nelh@naeh.org
http://www.endhomelessness.org/

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
333 ½ Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003-1148
Telephone: (202) 546-1969
Fax: (202) 546-2063
E-mail: ncvh@ncvh.org
http://www.ncvh.org/home.html

National Coalition for the Homeless
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005-3406
Telephone: (202) 737-6444
Fax: (202) 737-6445
http://nch.ari.net/

National Community Reinvestment Coalition
733 15th St., NW, #540
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 628-8866
Fax: (202) 628-9800

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
333 ½ Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 393-5229
Fax: (202) 393-3034
http://www.nlchp.org

National Rural Housing Coalition
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 850
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 393-5229
Fax: (202) 393-3034
http://www.nrhcweb.org

Rural Development
2118 W. Park Ct, Suite A
Champaign IL 61821
Telephone: (217)403-6222
Fax: (217)403-6231

Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless
P.O. Box 955
704 W. Boynton
Marion, IL 62959
Telephone: (618) 993-0094
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Statewide Housing Action Coalition
11 E. Adams, Suite 1501
Chicago, IL 60603
Telephone: (312) 939-4074
Fax: (312) 939-6822

Supportive Housing Providers Association
3417 North Monticello
Chicago, IL 60618
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Fax: (773) 267-1294
supportiveha@aol.com

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development
77 W. Jackson
Chicago, IL 60610
Telephone: (312) 939-1526
Fax: (312) 939-1526
http://www.hud.gov/