



GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION

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MEDIA RELEASE

HOUSING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING OF NEW SHELDON APARTMENTS SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, November 4, 2005—The Grand Rapids Housing Commission and the Mount Mercy Housing Corporation Board of Directors today announced they will celebrate the completion of the new \$4.8 million Sheldon Apartments senior housing development with a Grand Opening event on Wednesday, November 9. The Housing Commissioners and Housing Commission staff will be joined by Mayor George Heartwell and representatives of community partner agencies, as well as the architects and construction team who helped transform an abandoned school building into a housing complex for low-income seniors. Members of the media are also invited to attend the event, which will begin at 2:00 p.m. and feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2:15 p.m. The Grand Opening will include tours of the development's two-story, 20-unit main building and one of 25 cottage-style units that flank the multi-unit structure. Sheldon Apartments is located at 1010 Sheldon Avenue SE in Grand Rapids.

Situated on the site of the former Sheldon Elementary School, Sheldon Apartments is making 45 750-square-foot apartments available to low-income seniors aged 55 and older. Eligible tenants will receive a federal rental subsidy, which means rent will be no more than 30 percent of the household's adjusted monthly income. Tenants will be assisted by a Resident Services Specialist who will work with local senior-service agencies and health care organizations to help them find the supportive services they need.

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“The Housing Commission works closely with the mayor and the City Commission and is committed to meeting the critical housing needs identified in the City’s Consolidated Plan,” noted Grand Rapids Housing Commission Executive Director Carlos A. Sanchez. “We are very pleased to bring a beautiful new housing development to an underserved neighborhood, and we will continue to work with partner agencies to bring low-income seniors such essential services as transportation to medical appointments, substance abuse counseling and health screening, as well as social events and activities that enhance quality of life.”

The Sheldon Apartments project was financed, in part, by federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits awarded to the Housing Commission in September 2004, with additional financing provided by Fifth Third Bank, the Great Lakes Capital Fund and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis. The development was designed by James Childs Architects, and Triangle Associates was the general contractor.

Sheldon Apartments senior housing development is currently accepting rental applications, and the public can get an application form and more information by calling (616) 235-2600, or by logging on to www.grhousing.org.

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BACKGROUND: The Grand Rapids Housing Commission was established by the Grand Rapids City Commission in 1966 as a public-body corporation under the state enabling law now known as Public Act 18. The law empowers the City to act to provide housing for low-income people and to eliminate substandard housing conditions.

Funded primarily through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Grand Rapids Housing Commission is an independently administered entity governed by a five-member board appointed by the City Commission. The Housing Commission currently makes affordable housing available to 3,580 West Michigan families through a diverse portfolio of housing programs.