



GRAND RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION

CONTACT:

Carlos A. Sanchez, Executive Director
(616) 235-2600

MEDIA RELEASE

**HOUSING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING
OF NEW MOUNT MERCY SENIOR HOUSING ADDITION**

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, June 14, 2005--The Grand Rapids Housing Commission and the Mount Mercy Housing Corporation Board of Directors today announced they will celebrate the completion of a \$6.3 million addition to Mount Mercy senior housing development with a June 23 Grand Opening event. The Housing Commissioners and Housing Commission staff will be joined by local elected officials, representatives of community partner agencies and current Mount Mercy residents. Members of the media are also invited to attend the event, which will begin at 2:00 p.m. with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Grand Opening will include tours of the new addition and the newly renovated auditorium and chapel. Mount Mercy is located at 1425 Bridge Street NW.

The Mount Mercy addition is making 55 additional 525-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. Additionally, at least one-quarter of the new units will be allocated to low-income seniors who have disabilities or long-term support requirements that impede their ability to live independently. The Housing Commission is working with local senior-service agencies and health care organizations to link these seniors with the supportive services they need. The Mount Mercy staff includes a full-time Resident Services Specialist who coordinates supportive service delivery.

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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 working with partner agencies to bring low-income seniors such essential services as transportation to medical appointments, substance abuse counseling, and health information and screening, as well as social events and activities that enhance quality of life.”

Mount Mercy 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.

Built in 1917 as a Catholic convent and private school, Mount Mercy was acquired by the Grand Rapids Housing Commission in 1991 and renovated for use as 125 units of affordable senior housing. The new addition increases the facility’s size to 180 units. The beautiful and historic landmark is located on 30 rolling, park-like acres just northwest of downtown Grand Rapids.

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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 more than 3,800 West Michigan families through a diverse portfolio of housing programs.