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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**HOUSING COMMISSION ANNOUNCES GRAND OPENING  
OF REDEVELOPED CAMPAU COMMONS APARTMENTS**

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, August 20, 2007—The Grand Rapids Housing Commission and project general partner Mount Mercy Housing Corporation will celebrate the completion of the first phase of the \$14 million Campau Commons Apartments redevelopment project with a Grand Opening event on Thursday, August 23. Housing Commissioners, Mount Mercy Housing Corporation board members and staff will be joined by representatives of community partner agencies, as well as the architects and construction team who are transforming a severely distressed housing development into attractive, energy-efficient, affordable apartments that will house 92 families. Members of the media are also invited to attend the event, which will begin at 2:00 p.m. and feature a ribbon cutting at 2:30 p.m. The Grand Opening will also include tours of a 16-unit apartment building and one of the development's 32 duplex units. Campau Commons Apartments is located at South Division Avenue at Franklin Street SW in Grand Rapids.

The 48 units that are opening this month are the culmination of a three-year planning process that was strongly supported by the City of Grand Rapids and community partners from the government, corporate and faith-based sectors. Phase II of the Campau Commons redevelopment project will be completed in December and will include 44 apartments within two multi-unit apartment buildings. Phase III of the project is a \$1.1 million community building that will house management and resident services offices, community meeting space and a Head Start facility. Groundbreaking for the community building is set for late fall 2007, with the facility slated to open in fall 2008.

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Rents at the federally subsidized housing development are based on household income, and there is currently a waiting list to rent available apartments. Grand Rapids Housing Commission Executive Director Carlos A. Sanchez said families that were required to relocate from Campau Commons in preparation for the redevelopment project have been invited to reapply for housing at the new facility, with eligible former residents being the first offered the available units.

Sanchez said returning and new tenants will enjoy roomy, energy-efficient apartments that offer easy access to transportation, nearby child care centers and recreational facilities. "We designed the new Campau Commons with an eye toward better integrating the development within the surrounding neighborhood," Sanchez noted, adding that the redevelopment plan extends Ionia Avenue south to Antoine Street and is also allowing for an expansion of Campau Park.

The Campau Commons redevelopment project was financed, in part, through \$1.3 million in federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits awarded to the Housing Commission in 2006, with additional financing provided by Fifth Third Bank, Great Lakes Capital Fund, National City Community Development Corporation and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis. The development was designed by Hooker DeJong Architects, and the general contractor is Pioneer Construction. Low-income households interested in applying to rent an apartment at Campau Commons can get on the development's waiting list by filling out a housing application form that's available on the Housing Commission web site: [www.grhousing.org](http://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 Manager and approved by the City Commission. The Housing Commission currently makes affordable housing available to 3,966 West Michigan families through a diverse portfolio of housing programs.