



Making places to come home to.

August 8, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Sandra Gaddy
616-336-9333 ext. 408

New Development from Inner City Christian Federation Expands Affordable Housing Opportunities to Grand Rapids Families

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. – Inner City Christian Federation began construction on July 28 of a large development on scattered sites that will significantly and positively impact those seeking affordable housing in Grand Rapids. Titled Pleasant Prospect Homes 3, the project includes:

- Rehabilitating 60 rental housing units
- New construction of 30 rental units; most of which will be located on sites formerly occupied by the now closed Madison Square Housing Co-op
- Reconstructing an existing a 2,100 SF building as a community center

The rehabilitation of the 60 rental units which were developed and have been successfully managed by ICCF since 1991 includes installing new roofs, new kitchens with cabinets, countertops and appliances, and new bathrooms. Additional steps to promote energy efficiency will also be taken, including the installation of 95 percent efficient furnaces, Low E Argon replacement windows, Energy Star rated appliances, and high efficiency lighting.

Twenty-three of the units are designated as Permanent Supportive Housing units for persons with physical disabilities, persons at risk of homelessness and the chronically homeless. The community center will assist homeless families with children through direct advocacy and a commitment to stay with them as a support after the financial assistance or services are scheduled to conclude. The center will also provide parenting education classes, and an educational series coordinated by a Pine Rest Permanent Supportive Housing Advocate and an ICCF Supportive Housing Specialist.

Residents of these units will have full access to ICCF's broad array of housing education and counseling services including financial literacy, credit remediation/repair, family budgeting, parenting and relationship skill training, Individual Development Accounts (IDA), and referral to various community resources. These services will be delivered by ICCF's Housing and Family Services staff which includes 16 housing counselors with substantial adult learning and social work training. Each counselor is HUD and/or MSHDA certified and together they provide housing empowerment services to over 2,000 households annually.

Mercantile Bank of Michigan, a major funder for Pleasant Prospect Homes 3, is very optimistic about the impact this development will make on families' lives in Grand Rapids: "We want to congratulate ICCF regarding the undertaking of this very important project to strengthen

-MORE-

neighborhoods in Grand Rapids,” said Michael H. Price Chairman & CEO of Mercantile Bank of Michigan, “The demand for quality housing for low income families continues to exceed supply, a factor that ICCF continues to address with their efforts and expansion options through projects such as PPH3. We are pleased to be the primary financial partner for ICCF in this exciting endeavor and look forward to seeing the positive impact of this local housing community!” Funding was also provided by the city of Grand Rapids HOME fund and tax credit equity from Great Lakes Capital.

ICCF looks forward to this development and to enhancing the vitality of our community. When families are well housed — at affordable prices — they are empowered to reach new levels of stability and to contribute to the community as successful parents and reliable employees. For more information, visit www.iccf.org or call 616-336-9333.

ICCF is the oldest non-profit affordable housing provider in the state of Michigan. Active in the Grand Rapids area since 1974, the agency serves more than 2500 families a year through its programs and services. Program offerings include Family Haven emergency housing located at 701 Prospect SE (Grand Rapids), 96 units of affordable rental housing, newly constructed homes for purchase, home ownership education, and financial counseling. All services are provided in Spanish and English. Visit www.iccf.org for more information.

###

