



*Housing with compassion...  
Development with a vision*



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**Contact:**  
Elizabeth Celaya  
Community Relations Manager  
(845) 454-5176  
ecelaya@hudsonriverhousing.org

***Hudson River Housing honors former First Presbyterian Church of Poughkeepsie at annual dinner***

Poughkeepsie, NY ~ Hudson River Housing, Inc. held its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening by the Hudson on Thursday, September 24 at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie. During the event, Hudson River Housing honored the former First Presbyterian Church of Poughkeepsie (now nesting with the Freedom Plain Presbyterian Church in LaGrange). Hudson River Housing chose the church as its honoree for a \$45,000 contribution that was given to the organization in June. The gift was the single largest monetary contribution in the agency’s history.

The First Presbyterian Church of Poughkeepsie became a part of the Poughkeepsie community in 1749, and moved to its home on Cannon Street 1850. For many years the church has been remarkably dedicated to this community and to Hudson River Housing. In June, Hudson River Housing learned that the church had sold their building on Cannon Street, and that out of the proceeds of the sale they would be making a contribution to Hudson River Housing of \$45,000. “We were totally shocked,” said executive director Gail Webster. “During times like these, which have been especially difficult for nonprofits, it was amazingly generous of them to give us such a gift.” Similar donations were made to eleven other local nonprofit groups.

To honor the church for their generosity, Hudson River Housing called on the talents of local artist Kathleen Drag to create an original oil painting to commemorate the event. “We think of it as a ‘housewarming’ gift for the church as it makes a new home with the Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church in LaGrange,” said Nancy Romaine, president of Hudson River Housing. She also announced during the event that the contribution would be used to establish the First Presbyterian Church Legacy Fund, and would be used to provide scholarships for Hudson River Housing clients seeking to further their education, as well as provide emergency assistance for clients facing unusual hardships. “We believe that this is the best way to share this gift with those we serve,” said Ms. Webster.

M&T Bank was the platinum sponsor for the event, which also included a cocktail reception, dinner, live music, and silent and live auctions, and was attended by over 150 supporters.

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Hudson River Housing (HRH) develops and manages affordable housing in the community. HRH was created in 1982 to address the emerging homeless problem in Dutchess County, and is now a large, multi-service provider of housing and other services to a wide range of underserved populations. The expertise of Hudson River Housing is increasingly relied upon to inform local planning related to housing, community development and homelessness. Since its formation, Hudson River Housing has developed 39 affordable homeownership opportunities, over 600 emergency, transitional and permanent housing units, and 9 commercial spaces. For more information, please call (845) 454-5176 or visit [www.hudsonriverhousing.org](http://www.hudsonriverhousing.org).

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