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Formerly Homeless Get Free Professional Makeovers to Help with Job Search

Poughkeepsie, NY ~ Fourteen formerly homeless individuals will receive free professional makeovers today as part of Hudson River Housing’s first “Inspired & Hired” event. “Inspired & Hired” was developed to build the self-esteem of participants in Hudson River Housing’s Permanent Housing Programs, and help prepare them to successfully enter the job market. Hudson River Housing’s Permanent Housing Programs provide long-term, subsidized housing for formerly homeless individuals and their families, along with case management services to help participants achieve their goals, including finding stable employment.

“Inspired & Hired” was organized in coordination with Salon Madison Avenue located in the Poughkeepsie Galleria, and local makeup artist Diana Daley. After being treated to a consultation, wash and cut at Salon Madison Avenue, participants will have a chance to browse a selection of gently-used professional clothing and receive tips on job-appropriate makeup. Participants will also receive packets of information on resume writing and interviewing from the Department of Labor.

Linda Smith, a 27-year-old single mother, is excited to be participating in the event. Having taken several education courses in the medical field, she’s ready to enter the workforce. “I’m looking forward to the opportunity to secure a position in the field I’m most qualified for,” she said. “I’m also looking forward to furthering my education.”

Various local businesses provided donations for the event, including Adams Fairacre Farms, Marshall’s, and The Salvation Army. In 2008, the seven permanent housing programs operated by Hudson River Housing served approximately 50 households.

Hudson River Housing (HRH) has substantial experience in developing and managing 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, nearly 300 apartments and 9 commercial spaces. For more information, please call (845) 454-5176 or visit www.hudsonriverhousing.org.

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