



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



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 25, 2010**

Contact:

Kevin O'Connor
Executive Director
Rural Ulster Preservation Co.
(845) 331-2140
koconnor@rupco.org

Gail Webster
Executive Director
Hudson River Housing, Inc.
(845) 454-5176
gwebster@hudsonriverhousing.org

Two Hudson Valley Non-Profits to Explore Integration of Services

Today Hudson River Housing, Inc. and Rural Ulster Preservation Company (RUPCO) announced plans to explore the possibility of integrating the two organizations. The Boards of Directors of Hudson River Housing and RUPCO have begun a conversation to consider whether possibilities exist for the two groups to integrate and affiliate more thoroughly for the greater benefit of the community. The leaders of both non-profits view the effort as a process aimed at discovering if, by working together more closely in a formal way, they can facilitate a more seamless and comprehensive service experience for their constituents.

The missions and service offerings of the two long-standing local non-profits are complementary. Both organizations strive to revitalize the communities they serve and provide affordable homeownership and rental opportunities. In addition, Hudson River Housing provides a wide range of supportive services to homeless and at risk populations, and RUPCO administers a large Section 8 rental assistance program. RUPCO, established in 1981, provides services throughout Ulster County. Hudson River Housing, established in 1982, provides services primarily in Dutchess County. Hudson River Housing and RUPCO are currently collaborating on the implementation of Hudson Valley Foreclosure Prevention Services, a four-county collaborative offering foreclosure prevention counseling and loss mitigation services.

Both organizations have strong track records and excellent working relationships with funders, regulators, and with each other. The organizations' Directors believe that by bringing together the organizations' strengths, they can have a greater impact in revitalizing the region and expanding affordable housing opportunities for residents. The conversation regarding what form such an integration would take will be ongoing. Organization leaders expect to make a joint public statement if and when it is appropriate to do so.

Hudson River Housing (HRH) has substantial experience 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

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 37 affordable homeownership opportunities, nearly 300 apartments and 9 commercial spaces. For more information, please call (845) 454-5176 or visit www.hudsonriverhousing.org.

###END###

