



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Young Cyclists Roll through Poughkeepsie to Assist with Affordable Housing Efforts

Poughkeepsie, NY, June 25, 2009– Today, thirty young adults with Bike & Build Inc., a national non-profit committed to affordable housing, are bicycling into Poughkeepsie on their journey across the United States. The riders will be working with Hudson River Housing for a day of service learning. The cyclists are traveling from Boston, Massachusetts to Santa Barbara, California order to raise money and awareness for affordable housing causes.

“We are deeply proud that Bike & Build has 250 riders this year who are so committed to the affordable housing cause that they are willing to raise much-needed funds and spend two months of their summer biking across this amazing country,” said Bike & Build Executive Director Rosemary DiRita. “Bike & Build provides the opportunity; it is the riders who make the impact on housing issues through our cycling trips.”

After a morning of volunteering at Hudson River Lodging in the Town of LaGrange, the cyclists will roll through downtown Poughkeepsie around 1:00pm, where they will meet Hudson River Housing representatives on Harrison Street to tour properties slated for redevelopment and take part in a discussion of efforts to stabilize neighborhoods in the wake of foreclosure. We will share with them and other community leaders the personal story of a customer we are helping obtain a home through our homeownership counseling programs.

The intrepid cyclists will then be sent off on the next leg of their journey with a celebratory community barbeque at 134 Cannon Street. The barbeque will bring a positive event to an area of Poughkeepsie that has been hit hard in recent months, and is part of Hudson River Housing’s Middle Main Revitalization initiative.

The group will be traveling for more than 10 weeks and will help to build affordable housing 7 locations across the country. In order to participate in the trip, each rider raised at least \$4,000 to help fund the trip costs and affordable housing efforts nationwide. Bike &

Build offers eight cross-country biking trips each summer. The 18 to 25 year old riders see and experience first-hand the affordable housing need in this country. They stop in towns along their route and participate in construction efforts at affordable housing sites that are in progress, and also meet with local officials and community members to discuss affordable housing issues.

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 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 apartments and 9 commercial spaces. For more information, please call (845) 454-5176 or visit www.hudsonriverhousing.org.

Based in Philadelphia, Bike & Build is a non-profit organization that encourages young adults to address the country's affordable housing crisis through organizing bicycle trips. Trip participants support the affordable housing cause by fundraising and building efforts. Since 2003, Bike & Build has motivated over 750 young adult volunteers and contributed over \$1.6 million to housing groups such as Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together to fund projects in the United States. For more information, visit www.bikeandbuild.org or call (267) 331-8488.

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