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Neighborhood Stabilization Program Restores Community *Eight Blighted Properties in Bellwood and Melrose Park Rehabbed*

Hillside, Ill. – Officials gathered at a newly rehabbed house in Melrose Park today to mark the successful conclusion of the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission's (PTMHC) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Eight blighted and vacant homes in Bellwood and Melrose Park were purchased with a \$2.5 million grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority and converted into affordable housing. A ninth property had been slated for further development.

“This is a great day for this community,” said Proviso Township Mental Health Commission Board President Michael Corrigan. “We’ve removed dangerous housing that can bring down a whole neighborhood and replaced it with affordable homes for families with good credit but who need a little help.”

The Proviso Township Mental Health Commission administered the NSP in partnership with developer The Resurrection Project and the villages of Melrose Park and Bellwood. The purpose of the NSP was to stabilize communities hit hard by foreclosure. The nine properties were clustered in Melrose Park and Bellwood in order to have the biggest impact.

“This is the start of a new day in Bellwood,” said Bellwood Mayor Frank Pasquale.

These homes are the culmination of a collaborative effort which began in 2008. Melrose Park played a key role by adding down payment assistance, subsidies and property tax breaks which made the homes even more affordable.

“We are proud of the role we played in making this project a success,” Melrose Park Mayor Ron Serpico said. “This is a prime example of how local governments working with communities can effect great change.”

Families that qualified for the homes had good credit but nevertheless were unable to buy a home. If the homes are ever sold, they must be sold at an affordable IHDA-established price.

“We are making this the kind of community where, more and more, people will be putting down roots and participating in the community,” said Jesse D. Rosas, Executive Director of the PTMHC. “Not only that, these properties will go back on the tax rolls so there is a benefit to our entire township.”



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