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**ROCHESTER HOUSING CHARITIES REVEALS
NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT**

\$500,000 Investment to Create Quality Homes for Working Families

ROCHESTER, N.Y., May 25, 2018 – Today, Rochester Housing Charities (RHC) cut the ribbon at 16 Diamond Place, a new quality, affordable home in the Beechwood neighborhood. This is the first of four homes to be built on this street, after the removal of the current vacant properties currently existing there. This four-home project is a \$500,000 investment funded through Rochester Housing Charities to support the mission of providing quality, affordable housing and services to the elderly and disabled families including young children.

“We built these beautiful new homes with the goal of raising the standard of living for working families and to create stronger communities around them that can be successful long-term,” said Reece McKenzie, RHC Board Chairman. “These four homes are really more than that, they’re the launching pad to a positive domino effect across the Beechwood community.”

In 2016, the City of Rochester put out an RFP to develop these vacant parcels of land, which had been vacant for nearly five years after the abandoned properties on those sites were demolished. In 2017, Rochester Housing Charities was awarded the RFP and began the process of transforming Diamond Place.

“Affordable and safe homes are a fundamental building block in helping families and communities reach their full potential,” Mayor Lovely A. Warren said. “These new homes, built by Rochester Housing Charities, represent an important investment in this neighborhood and in its people, contributing to more jobs, safer and more vibrant neighborhoods and better educational opportunities for all.”

All four properties were designed by Pardy Partnership Architects. Construction on 16 Diamond Place was completed this week, with the additional properties scheduled for completion before the end of this year.

- 16 Diamond Place: Model A, 912 sq. ft, one story, two-bedroom, one bath, built on a 40’ lot
- 3 Diamond Place: Model B, 840 sq. ft., two-story, two-bedroom, one and a half bath, to be built on a 33’ lot
- 15 Diamond Place & 12 Diamond Place: 882 sq. ft., Model C, two-story, two-bedroom, one and a half bath, to be built on a 40’ lot

“This is a meaningful milestone for the Beechwood Neighborhood, which is seeing its first new construction build since 2002,” said George Moses and John Page, Chair and Vice Chair of Rochester Housing Authority. “We made a promise to this community to finish this challenge street and make it a true neighborhood, full of homes and not empty abandoned lots, and I’m excited to stand here today with all those involved in helping to make that promise a reality.”

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The first homeowner to move into the new development is Lorretta Cross, a well-known Beechwood resident and community advocate. To welcome Loretta to her new home, RHC dedicated Pee-Wee's Garden at the property in honor of her two-year-old grandson, who was tragically lost when hit by a car while chasing a ball in 2016.

First-time homebuyers interested in applying for one of the available properties on Diamond Place can fill out an application with Rochester Housing Charities by visiting their main office at 684 West Main Street.

"Certainly, a key to sustainable growth in neighborhoods across the City of Rochester is affordable and high-quality housing," said Senator Joe Robach. "With today's ribbon cutting and plans for three more new homes to be built on Diamond Place, Rochester Housing Charities is investing in the Beechwood Neighborhood and our city. I look forward to continued investment towards affordable and quality housing across the City of Rochester."

About Rochester Housing Charities

The Corporation, Rochester Housing Charities, Inc., (the "Organization" or "Corporation") is an independently operated and managed tax exempt 501(c) (3) entity. It was formed as an affiliated entity by the Rochester Housing Authority ("RHA") in 2012, a public housing agency, to support the mission of affordable housing and services to the elderly and disabled families including young children. The Corporation received its not-for-profit status exemption in 2014. The Corporation, as an affiliated entity, has a separate staff, board of directors, officers and business location from RHA, its founding member.

About Rochester Housing Authority

Established in 1955 as an independent public corporation by New York State Public Housing Law, the Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) serves more than 25,000 lower-income families, seniors and disabled residents and program participants in the five-county Greater Rochester area. Approximately 20% of those reside in the 2,400+ RHA public housing units, while others served receive assistance in the form of voucher or certificate programs that help them afford eligible, private housing.

Rochester Housing Authority does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, family status or disability in leasing, rental, occupancy, use or other disposition of housing or related facilities.

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