



150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet IL 60432

Media Release

Contact: Communications Office 815.724.3720 rbarker@jolietcity.org

February 16, 2010

City of Joliet Presents its First "Happy Homeowner" As part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program

The City of Joliet is pleased to have its first "Happy Homeowner" recipient as part of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, receive their home on Dartmoor Drive February 5, 2010.

The recipient of was a first time homeowner, Maria L. Huizar, and her two children. Huizar applied for the Neighborhood Stabilization program through the City of Joliet Neighborhood Services Department and selected the house on Dartmoor Drive.

Councilpersons Tom Giarrante, Mike Turk and Jan Quillman were on hand for the ceremonial "handing over of the keys" to the happy homeowners. The Huizar children took turns giving tours of their newly renovated home to each guest that arrived. Alfredo Melesio, Director of Neighborhood Services who oversees the program said, "There were smiles and gestures of appreciation all around...Now there is a happy family where a vacant foreclosure once stood."

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and "Happy Homeowner program" was authorized under Title III of Division B of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA). A total of 3.92 billion was allocated to states and local governments in emergency assistance for the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes.

The City of Joliet received an allocation of \$3.5 million and has purchased 18 foreclosed properties for rehabilitation and demolition to date. The Mayor and City Council approved the purchase and rehabilitation of the property on Dartmoor Drive earlier in 2010. The property was subsequently rehabilitated with the closing taking place on February 5, 2010. The City of Joliet anticipates 8 additional houses to be rehabilitated through this program and ready for occupancy in late summer of 2010.

For additional information on the NSP, Happy Homeowner programs, and how you can get involved, call Lois Goldman at 815-724-4088.

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 152,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit

www.visitjoliet.org or call 815.724.4000.

###