

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Melba Graffius Swoyer
Director, Finance and Development
Housing Options for the Mentally Ill
Evanston, IL 60202
Ph: 847-866-6144, x 17
mswoyer@housingopt.org

**Housing Options
Announces Results of *Home Is Where the Heart Is* 2009 Benefit and
First-Ever Community Partnership Award Winners**

(Evanston, IL. February 19, 2009) -- Housing Options, a nonprofit agency based in Evanston, IL held its seventeenth annual benefit, *Home Is Where the Heart Is*, February 7 at the Woman's Club of Evanston. This event netted more than \$33,000, which will assist the agency in providing affordable housing and support services to adults recovering from chronic mental illnesses.

Leading organizations supported the evening's event, including:

- Benvenuti and Stein, Inc.
- Chicago Stucco
- First Bank and Trust
- Glenview State Bank
- The Grimsley Group
- North Shore Community Bank
- NorthShore University HealthSystem, Evanston Hospital
- Northwestern University
- Wesley Realty Group

More than 200 guests spent the first part of the evening browsing and bidding on spectacular silent auction items donated by local merchants and individuals, enjoying a buffet of hors d'œuvres, and listening to the music of pianist John Buccheri, formerly with the Northwestern University School of Music.

Later in the evening, guests proceeded to the ballroom where Executive Director, Laura Sabino, welcomed them. Ms. Sabino introduced Housing Options' first-ever Community Partnership Award program, and announced Award winners. The award was established to highlight the positive work that is being done in the community, and to encourage more people to become involved.

The Housing Options Community Partnership Award winners are:

- *The Evanston RoundTable*. The award was accepted by Mary Helt Gavin, Publisher
- *NorthShore University HealthSystem, Evanston Hospital*. The award was accepted by Deborah Taber, Administrative Director, Department of Psychiatry
- *Young Professionals of Evanston*. The award was accepted by David Fisher, President

As is tradition, the Chicago Bar Association's Christmas Spirits provided entertainment with a musical revue and politically oriented skits. This year's show featured "Jury Boys," which directed satire at several newsmakers and politicians (current and former) and the recent presidential election.

Housing Options' provides housing and services to more than 74 adults recovering from chronic mental illnesses like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and severe depression. Housing Options participants live in fully-furnished affordable apartments and receive support from a team of social workers, case managers and psychiatrists.

###