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**Esperanza Court Affordable Housing Complex Wins
Oregon Brownfield Award**

Catholic Charities in Oregon Recognized for Outstanding Redevelopment

Portland, Ore. – November 5, 2008 – Catholic Charities’ Caritas Housing program was recognized at the state capital today for solving critical environmental challenges in the redevelopment of a Brownfield. The site is now the location of a new complex, Esperanza Court, a 70-unit affordable housing complex located at SE 28th Avenue and Powell Boulevard in Portland, Ore.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Economic and Community Development Department annually recognizes up to three Brownfield renewal projects that implement innovative and practical solutions that balance economic and quality of life improvements to the local community. Brownfields are vacant or underused commercial or industrial properties where known or suspected environmental contamination has created barriers to redevelopment.

A distinguishing factor among award winners is teamwork.

“We are honored to receive recognition for a housing project that had challenges from the very beginning. It took help and support from many financial, development and community partners to make Esperanza Court a reality,” said Terri Silvis, director of housing for Catholic Charities’ Caritas Housing program.

This year marks the second presentation of the Oregon Brownfields Awards. Winners were announced during the 2008 Oregon Brownfields Workshop and Awards Luncheon in Salem, Oregon.

About Caritas Housing

Since its inception in 1999, Caritas Housing has acquired, renovated, and built more than 370 units of housing for low-income families, seniors, and special needs populations. For more information go to

http://www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org/services_housing_development.asp or call Catholic Charities at 503-231-4866.

About Catholic Charities

Since 1933, Catholic Charities in Oregon has been bringing hope, resources and advocacy to the poorest and most vulnerable throughout the state, regardless of faith, race, marital status or condition in life. The organization serves as the professional social service arm of the Archdiocese of Portland, yet is funded completely through grants and donations. Headquartered in Portland at 231 SE 12th Avenue, the organization will move into its new Clark Family Center upon completion in Spring 2010. For more information call (503) 231-4866, or go to www.catholiccharitiesoregon.org.

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