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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center Receives \$290,125 Grant From NeighborWorks America *Grant is a much-needed boost to The HomeOwnership Center's Efforts*

March 17, 2010 (Utica, NY) – UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center, a member of the national NeighborWorks® network, received \$290,125 in flexible grants from NeighborWorks® America, which will support The HomeOwnership Center's affordable housing and community development activities at a time when communities need investment most.

"This award helps to support many of our flagship services, such as Homebuyer Education, Foreclosure Intervention Counseling and Housing Rehabilitation Programs," said Janice Forte, executive director of The HomeOwnership Center.

In 2010, NeighborWorks America will provide over \$119 million in grants to its national network of more than 230 nonprofit organizations operating in over 4,400 rural, urban, and suburban communities, including Oneida, Herkimer and Madison Counties. The grants will be used to revitalize and strengthen communities by providing counseling for homeowners on the brink of foreclosure; increasing the number of certified foreclosure and homeownership counselors through training; empowering consumers through financial and homeownership education and counseling; and creating homeownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families.

"For every dollar in NeighborWorks® grants, an additional \$35 is invested in America's communities, resulting in a direct investment of nearly \$4 billion in the areas served," said NeighborWorks® America CEO Ken Wade. "As good stewards of taxpayer dollars, NeighborWorks® ensures our investments are working in ways that truly make a difference."

In the last 10 years, The HomeOwnership Center has:

- Assisted more than 800 families to purchase their first home
- Established and coordinated more than 200 block associations
- Taught more than 1500 people financial literacy and homebuyer education
- Stimulated more than \$52 million in economic activity in our region
- Rehabilitated more than 1000 homes

"We are grateful for the support from Congress and our other private, philanthropic and public funders who make our work possible. Although no one organization or sector can resolve the foreclosure crisis and re-stabilize communities, NeighborWorks America and the NeighborWorks network are making a significant contribution to this effort because of the support from Congress and our partners," continued Wade.

For more information about The HomeOwnership Center's Educational Workshops or confidential one-on-one counseling for existing or prospective homeowners, please call 315-724-4197 or visit www.thehomeownershipcenter.org for more information. Chartered in 1979 by NeighborWorks America, The UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center has been the leader in housing initiatives for more than 30 years. Through various programs such as Home Buyer Education, Financial Literacy and Pre-purchase Counseling, the certified and trained staff at the HOC offers a multitude of services on HomeOwnership. The HOC is your one-stop shop for HomeOwnership. Serving Oneida, Herkimer and Madison counties.