

LOAN MODIFICATION SCAM
ALERT™
1-888-995-HOPE(4673) www.LoanScamAlert.org

1611 Genesee Street
Utica, NY 13501
Tel. 315-724-4197
Fax. 315-724-1415
NYS TDD Relay # 800-622-1220
www.thehomeownershipcenter.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center Empowers Homeowners to Combat Loan Modification Scams

December 8, 2009 (Utica, NY) – As the national foreclosure rate reaches an all-time high of nearly 8 percent, there has also been an increase in the number of Loan Modification Scam companies trying to take money -- and sometimes even homes -- away from borrowers.

Staff at The UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center, a HUD-Certified Housing Counseling Agency that offers free foreclosure intervention counseling to homeowners of any income in Oneida, Herkimer, Madison, Otsego and Fulton Counties, is trying to educate homeowners about these loan modification scams through Mortgage Check-Up Workshops.

“We want everyone in our communities to know that every day people are falling victim to these scam artists,” said Janice Forte, executive director of The HomeOwnership Center. “It’s unfortunate when individuals and companies prey on homeowners facing foreclosure,” she added. “Instead of getting the help, direction and guidance they need, these homeowners are losing money, and sometimes even their homes.”

The HomeOwnership Center is empowering residents through educational workshops, and would like to reach more homeowners with important information regarding Loan Modification Scams. Overall, the HOC hopes to:

- ALERT homeowners about scams.
- HELP homeowners spot a scam before it’s too late.
- ENCOURAGE homeowners to report scammers to the authorities.

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.

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If you would like more information on this topic, or to schedule an interview, please contact Julie Howarth at (315) 724-4197 or email Julie at jhowarth@unhs.org