



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Community Partnerships: Habitat for Humanity

Logan County: “When we all work together, good things happen,” says Joseph Mancuso, Ph.D., superintendent of the Logan County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (LCBMRDD). Dr. Mancuso is referring to the recently completed Habitat for Humanity home located at 728 Albert Street in Bellefontaine. “This project is a perfect example of the benefits gained through the cooperation between the state department of MR/DD, our board and our community.”

The residence is home to four individuals served through the LCBMRDD with contractual services provided by **Champaign Residential Services, Inc. (CRSI)** of Urbana. With partial funding through the Ohio Department of MR/DD capital housing programming, the home was built for the Logan Housing Corporation, a subsidiary of the LCBMRDD. “CRSI has been actively involved in community partnerships around Ohio since 1976 and this truly is an honor for us to be the chosen provider of services to the individuals living in the Habitat for Humanity project in Logan County, says Than Johnson, CEO of Champaign Residential Services, Inc.

The Jubilee Mennonite Church designated this project as their annual mission project with volunteers committing to a two week period of construction starting in early summer of 2003. Other church members in the community and some staff at LCBMRDD volunteered many hours to the project culminating with a tour by Ohio Department of MR/DD Director Kenneth Ritchey on March 12 and an open house and dedication on March 21.

The home is adapted with a few requirements to accommodate persons with physical disabilities such as ramps, wider hallways and doorways, and a bathroom with an accessible shower. “This has been an exciting opportunity for me”, says Karen Hesson Brady, director of supportive services for LCBMRDD. “The people I’ve met and worked with side by side have been true missionaries.”

For more information about this project contact Karen Brady at 937-292-3004 or Dean Horn, president of the Logan County Habitat for Humanity at 937-593-1911.