



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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BROOKS, DIOCESE AND PROVIDENCE OPEN HOME OWNERSHIP CENTER

New Center Improves Services for Prospective Home Buyers

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks today joined Bishop Matthew Clark of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester and officials from Providence Housing Development Corporation to officially open the new Home Ownership Center located at 1136 Buffalo Road in the Town of Gates.

“Through our partnership with Providence Housing, we are helping individuals and families achieve the American Dream of Home Ownership, right here in Monroe County,” said Monroe County Executive **Maggie Brooks**. *“This new Center will make our Home Ownership Program even more accessible to prospective home buyers. More home owners mean a stronger economy and a stronger community.”*

“Providence is very proud and excited for the opening of our Home Ownership Center. We hope this Center will allow us to better serve families as they make the transition into home ownership,” said **Monica McCullough**, Executive Director, Providence Housing. *“The Center is an exciting expansion of the services we currently provide through our Monroe County Home Ownership Program, and provides a permanent location for our educational workshops and trainings. The Center will be open five days a week, and families are encouraged to drop-in and research the home buying process, in a supportive, unbiased environment, prior to beginning their search for a home.”*

Through a public-private partnership, Providence Housing Development Corporation has administered Monroe County’s Home Ownership Program for the last eight years. It is funded with federal dollars through the Community Development Block Grant program. In addition, JP Morgan Chase provided a \$10,000 grant to support the Home Ownership Program and Senator Jim Alesi secured a \$7,500 grant for the Center.

The Home Ownership Center offers classroom space and informational materials and houses program administrative offices and staff. The Center also provides access to computers so prospective home buyers can search for properties online.

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Two open houses are scheduled for prospective buyers to mark the Center's grand opening: June 12 and June 14 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Center is open Monday through Friday by walk-in or appointment.

The Home Ownership Program offers down payment and closing cost assistance to income-eligible first-time buyers who complete eight hours of classroom instruction and meet other program requirements. Topics include pre-purchase counseling, home repair and maintenance, credit repair and budgeting, understanding the home buying process and important tips for selecting qualified professionals.

The average first-time home buyer receives a grant of \$5,000 from Monroe County. Educational workshops, counseling services and program materials are provided free of charge. Income limits are 80% of the area median income as determined by HUD, currently \$51,300 for a family of four.

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