

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Contact Terry Testolin NHS of Richland County Executive Director – 608-647-4949 or Email [nhsrcwi@mwt.net](mailto:nhsrcwi@mwt.net)

*Neighborhood Housing Services of Richland County Celebrates National NeighborWorks Week!*

NeighborWorks Week is a national celebration of the accomplishments of the NeighborWorks network, of which Neighborhood Housing Services of Richland County (NHS) is a member. The theme of NeighborWorks Week 2004 held from June 5-12 is *Transforming Communities Together!* Organizations involved in National NeighborWorks Week are part of a national network of nonprofits that work year-round to revitalize communities. NeighborWorks organizations operate in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, improving neighborhoods, making home ownership possible, and providing quality affordable rental housing. They transform abandoned and distressed properties into homes of choice. They bring business to areas once thought unprofitable. NeighborWorks organizations transform the lives of the people they help – and the communities they serve.

Locally, NHS of Richland County will be hosting the following events: (all events are *FREE and open to the public*)

- On Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10AM to 1PM, NHS will invite the community to it's "*Team NHS Community Celebration and Fun Social*". This fun and educational fundraising event will be held at Culvers in Richland Center. *Culvers will donate 10% of all sales on both Saturday and Sunday to NHS!* NHS will set up a tent on the lawn and invite the community, past and present NHS customers, Board members, local and National Sponsors and Staff to share in the fun. Culvers Customers will be invited to utilize the Picnic tables that will be set up outside and at the NHS tent. Inside the tent, people will be able to view the NHS HomeOwnership Center kiosk and get information about upcoming Homebuyer's Seminars and other NHS programs. "Scoopy" the Culver's mascot plans to be there to meet and greet attendees. NHS will feature balloons for the kids plus fishing tips and stories by Master Angler Will Buros for the anglers in the crowd who may want to enter the *NHS ANGLER CHALLENGE Fundraiser!*
- Also on Saturday , June 5<sup>th</sup> at 2PM, NHS will host a "*ground breaking*" ceremony at the site of the new homes NHS is building this year in the Sextonville Airport View Addition.
- On Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, NHS will host a HomeOwnership Center/NHS *Open House* at the NHS offices in Richland Center. This event will be held in the afternoon from 1-4PM during regular business hours. The community will be invited to tour the Center and the offices, to partake of appetizers from the Fiesta Fe Café and to learn about NHS programs.
- The final event of the week will be a *Homebuyer's Fair* held on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> from 1PM to 4PM in the basement of the Brewer Library. This event will feature

informational booths by local lenders and other professionals. The public will be invited to gather information about home purchase resources in Richland County.

According to NHS Executive Director Terry Testolin, “NeighborWorks Week 2004 is designed to celebrate our success, honor our partners, and to provide fresh information for the communities we serve. NHS of Richland County is a resident partnership now in our 3<sup>rd</sup> decade of public service helping to make our communities a better place to live, work and play. Our Special thanks to Culver’s for a major fundraiser on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> that we encourage our friends and neighbors to patronize in support of NHS affordable housing programs.”

**In 2003, the NeighborWorks network...**

- Generated more than \$1.9 billion for affordable housing and community development.
- Helped more than 80,000 low-to-moderate-income families purchase, improve and maintain their homes.
- Provided pre- and post purchase homebuyer counseling to more than 75,000 families.
- Owned and/or managed more than 40,000 multifamily homes.
- Operated in more than 2,500 urban, suburban and rural communities.
- Consisted of more than 225 nonprofit, community-based organizations.

**In 2003, NHS of Richland County...**

- ✓ Achieved record production with a \$4.6 Million Total COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT IMPACT and a 97% positive Customer Satisfaction Rating.
- ✓ Closed 68 Rehab and Homeownership Loans @ a total of \$467,119 in direct funding to NHS customers.
- ✓ Three New Contractor-built homes were completed with WHEDA and Neighborhood Reinvestment funding. The homes were sold in 2003 and 2004 to low-income households using conventional and USDA mortgages.
- ✓ 300 low and moderate income households were served by all NHS programs and counseling
- ✓ The Park Hotel Senior Citizen Apartments were rented at near 100% occupancy.
- ✓ NHS’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was celebrated successfully with a community dinner and GRAND OPENING of the Homeownership Center!

Call NHS at 608-647-4949 for more information on NeighborWorks Week and our 2004 programs, or to receive our ANNUAL REPORT/NEWSLETTER. For more information you can also check out the NHS of Richland County Website at [www.nhsrcwi.org](http://www.nhsrcwi.org) NHS of Richland County is an Equal Housing Opportunity.