

NEWS RELEASE

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Utah Department of Community and Culture

Utah Housing Partnership  
Proclaims June "Home Ownership Month"

Salt Lake City, Utah - The Department of Community and Culture, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, have proclaimed June "Home Ownership Month" in an effort to focus on the importance of affordable housing solutions.

"Rising housing prices make it difficult for many families to purchase a first home," notes Gordon Walker, director for Utah's Division of Housing and Community Development. "We are finding solutions to this problem by bringing federal, state and local housing agencies together to create workable programs."

Three successful low-income programs for home ownership have emerged from this partnership, the Single Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program, the American Dream Down Payment Initiative and the Mutual Self Help Housing Program. The latter program brings six to ten rural households together to assist in building each other's homes. Each household contributes 30 hours each week. Homes are built and people learn construction, communications, and problem solving skills. Over the past six years, the program has completed 385 homes in Utah and plans to complete another 214 in the next 18 months.

"Home Ownership Month" will be proclaimed during a press conference, Thursday, June 1, 2006 at 11:00 a.m., in the State Office Building auditorium. In addition, local housing agencies will be recognized for their work in providing affordable home ownership opportunities.

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