Thank you to all of our generous donors, volunteers, supporters and community stakeholders.

Our many accomplishments would not be possible without your support.

“For parents who have children with special needs, a huge thing that we have to go through is needing to set up housing for our children, so that when we are gone they are taken care of and have a place to live where they’re safe and happy. Community Housing Network helped us do that.”
Dear Friends, Supporters and Community Stakeholders:

It would be an understatement to say that the past year was a challenging one. The economy in Michigan, including Oakland and Macomb counties where we currently carry out the majority of our work, was devastated, and will continue to undergo drastic transformation in the next several years. Decreasing revenues, particularly at the state level, are an ongoing challenge that directly affects resources for the work we carry out. The accompanying increase in the need for affordable housing and related services for those we serve – people who are homeless and at risk of homelessness, people with disabilities, and people experiencing very-low to moderate income – was notable, and a challenge we were able to meet by being open to quick transformation of our work from behind the scenes.

One example is our Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, or HPRP. HPRP is a HUD-funded stimulus program, designed to provide temporary assistance to people who may have never had to access government help in the past. With one hand on the pulse of the economy and another on the nature of the calls we were receiving through our Housing Resource Center, we anticipated the need to serve this new population well in advance of the announcement of HPRP. Early in the year, we applied for and received funds from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for a Homeless Initiative Grant targeting homelessness prevention, something we knew was sorely needed. We were very successful with the modestly funded program, leveraging over $12,000 in additional funds to the initial $9,500 grant. The Homeless Initiative Grant program proved to be a blueprint for HPRP, which was announced mid-year. We were well-poised to hit the ground running when it came to applying for and being awarded grants totaling $2.4 million in September 2009 to administer HPRP. The bottom line: We were able to begin serving people in need with this new program, quickly and efficiently. We look forward to continuing HPRP well into next fiscal year and beyond.

Other accomplishments this past year include the development of eight units of affordable housing and a grant award for 12 additional units utilizing the HUD Section 811 program, bringing our total number of developed units since 2001 to 439; the award of a $25,000 grant from the Autism Society of America – Oakland County Chapter to create materials to support self-determination for individuals with autism; responding to a record number of calls – over 3,100 – to our Housing Resource Center; and witnessing 31 individuals with disabilities graduate from our supportive housing programs to move on to greater independence. See “Highlights” in this report for more.

Looking forward, we have plans to vastly expand our reach in the community through key partnerships with funders, service providers, donors and volunteers. Maximizing collaboration and support is a priority in these belt-tightening times. We thank our supporters who have been steadfast in their determination to help us accomplish our mutual goal of providing homes to people in need.

Finally, our focus remains on the people we serve. Their stories of perseverance and success amaze us each day. We thank them for being a constant inspiration for our work.

Best regards,

Marc Craig
President & CEO

James C. Merritt
Board Chair

“Community Housing Network has changed my life, because it’s given me the opportunity to live in a peaceful environment. I’m grateful for a roof over my head.”
2009 Highlights

» **Awarded** $6.1 million in grant funding, including $2.4 million for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)

» **Completed** construction of 8 units of affordable housing through the HUD Section 811 Program, bringing the total number of units developed since 2001 to 439

» **Provided** rental assistance and housing-related supportive services to 307 previously homeless adults and children, a 12% increase over last year. Thirty-one participants left our program, graduating on to greater independence, including three participants who purchased their own homes

» **Welcomed** new grantors: Lula C. Wilson Foundation and the Autism Society of America – Oakland County Chapter

» **Assisted** over 3,100 people who called in to our Housing Resource Center, providing them with programs and resources in response to their housing questions

» **Made** over 2,700 face-to-face contacts and screenings of people in need through direct outreach in our communities

» **Brought** “Future Housing Planning” to people with developmental disabilities and their families, helping them to plan for future housing needs before a crisis strikes

» **Began** work with the Developmental Disability Council on “The Train is Moving,” part of a movement to provide opportunities to individuals with developmental disabilities to become state-certified peer support specialists

» **Presented** an overview of our Housing Resource Center at the Annual Summit on Ending Homelessness

» **Worked** with over 300 volunteers who provided thousands of hours of time and resources

» **Served** 199 adults and children through our Adopt A Family program, with 180 donors contributing over $7,500 in cash and over $18,500 in in-kind donations

» **Partnered** with PNC Bank on their Community Appreciation Day to spruce up group home properties in Troy

» **Featured** in Washington Post article on homelessness in Oakland County, providing critical statistics and data through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for which we are the lead agency in Oakland County

» **Presented** HMIS data at the Annual Summit on Ending Homelessness as part of the statewide workgroup centering around best practices

» **Successfully completed** strategic planning and a rebranding program, launching a new Community Housing Network mission statement and logo

» **Increased** traffic to our website by 68%, to 35,816 visits

» **Co-Chaired** the Oakland County Task Force on Homelessness and Affordable Housing, and served in board positions on the Macomb Homeless Coalition, the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis Affordable Housing Advisory Council

» **Welcomed** our first two AmeriCorps Members through MSHDA’s Michigan’s Campaign to End Homelessness

“This is an organization that gives people a chance in a very meaningful way. Community Housing Network came to my rescue and found a place for me to live. Thank you.”
"I look at myself today, and I’m working and I have my master’s degree … and my children are together and we’re healthy and happy and we have a home."
"I really like living here. It's nice and quiet. It's peaceful. It's a nice neighborhood to live in. I want to thank Community Housing Network for helping me get my house."
The program participants featured here
are just a few of the thousands
you have helped over the years.

Thank you.
We are passionate advocates,

devoted to providing homes for people in need and

access to resources to create sustainable communities.