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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORPC Celebrates 15 Years of Providing Free Housing Counseling

(Columbus - December 16, 2009) The Housing and Community Services Department at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is celebrating 15 years of providing free housing counseling programs to the community. Services provided by the Housing Department include pre-purchase education and down payment assistance, financial literacy, individual credit counseling, default/foreclosure prevention courses and counseling, mortgage assistance and housing rehabilitation.

According to Shaun Donovan, the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, "The housing crisis has illustrated that many families need help with the complex home buying process and need a trusted place to turn when they face foreclosure."

"MORPC's Housing and Community Services Department has provided that trust to over 4,000 people in the last 15 years. Our staff is committed to helping families buy homes that are affordable to them, to helping them maintain their homes in the years ahead and avoid foreclosure, and to making them warm and lead-safe for their family and future generations," states Kathy Werkmeister, MORPC Housing and Community Services Director.

Linda Lofton, a recent client, expressed her appreciation, "Thank you once again for helping me secure my first home. I have already moved in and I must say there is nothing more satisfying than being at home. MORPC is very knowledgeable, professional and sincere. They offered so much guidance and put forth great efforts to ensure that I had everything I needed. I felt like they wanted me to be a homeowner just as much as I desired a home." Another homebuyer, Cesar Alava, stated, "Without the down payment assistance it would have been impossible for me to purchase my home. MORPC's counselors were very helpful and the class was very informative."

In addition, MORPC offers a single-family housing rehabilitation program for homes located in Franklin County outside the City of Columbus. The Nesters sent an email to Franklin County Commissioners Office to express their satisfaction with staff, "We received much more help than we thought was possible. We were very satisfied with the service provided by MORPC staff. It makes us proud to know that we have outstanding people like this working for us in Franklin County."

MORPC is an approved Housing Counseling Agency through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of Columbus. MORPC offers free default and foreclosure counseling, pre- and post-purchase and one-on-one credit counseling. MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing. MORPC is currently celebrating its 40th Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.

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Working to Build a Better Region

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