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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**  
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### **First Homes observes success in Greater Rochester**

First Homes will observe its success in the greater Rochester area with tours of home sites and a ceremony on June 27.

Since its launch in 1999 with pledges of \$1 million from the Rochester Area Foundation and \$5 million from Mayo Clinic, First Homes already has passed the one-third mark of its goal with new housing built and is at the half-way mark with units under construction.

First Homes is a public-private collaborative to build needed starter homes in Rochester and a 30-mile radius. The goal is to build homes for 875 families over five years – 500 single-family homes and 375 rental townhomes.

The event on June 27 will include two separate bus tours of developments hosting First Homes single-family homes and rental units, the first bus leaving downtown Rochester at 3 p.m. for Pine Island and Rochester and a second bus tour leaving downtown Rochester at 4 p.m. for tours in Rochester.

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After the tours, a reception with refreshments will be held at 5:30 p.m. in the ballrooms of the Rochester Marriott in downtown Rochester. In addition to speakers' brief comments on First Homes' success in meeting the need for starter homes for working families in the region, the Rochester Area Foundation will recognize donors for their contributions to its First Homes initiative.

First Homes' first annual report will be released to the public at the reception, too.

Persons wishing to take part in the bus tours or attend the reception should make reservations by calling (507) 282-0203 or by sending an e-mail to [Karen@RochesterArea.org](mailto:Karen@RochesterArea.org).

First Homes single-family homes and rental units have been built in Byron, Dover, Grand Meadow, Hayfield, Kasson, Pine Island, Plainview, Rochester, Spring Valley and Zumbrota.

A \$12.75 million fund-raising effort by the Rochester Area Foundation is seeking donations from area employers, individuals and organizations. The raised funds can be leveraged for additional funding of \$115 million from other sources, and the total, \$128 million, is the amount needed to build starter homes for 875 families in a 30-mile radius of Rochester.

To date, the Rochester Area Foundation has raised \$12.27 million for the First Homes project. Donations may be made by calling (507) 282-0203.

For more information on First Homes, call (507) 287-7117 or visit <http://www.FirstHomes.org> on the Web.