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NEWS RELEASE

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Digital photos of the award presentations are available upon request.

For immediate release

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First Homes inducts five partners into new Century Club

First Homes has inducted five partners into its newly created Century Club.

Persons and firms recognized with the awards have assisted more than 100 families each through their work with the starter home initiative. The Century Club awards were presented at a recent holiday gathering for First Homes partners.

Members of the new First Homes Century Club include:

- Bob Matthews, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Rochester
- Title Services Inc., Rochester
- Ohly Law Office, Rochester
- DeWitz Construction, Rochester
- Judy Plank, Community Housing Partnership homebuyer education, Rochester

- more -

In addition, a special award was made to Countrywide Home Loans' Joan Karow, who has moved from the Rochester area and also has assisted numerous First Homes homebuyers.

Since First Homes got under way in 2000, more than 315 single-family homes have been purchased through the First Homes program and 229 rental units have been built for working families – in a total of nine communities to date. These communities include Grand Meadow, Byron, Dover, Hayfield, Kasson, Pine Island, Plainview, Rochester and Spring Valley.

The Rochester Area Foundation already has raised more than \$13.1 million for the First Homes initiative from area employers, individuals and organizations. The raised funds leverage an additional \$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.

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