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NEWS RELEASE

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NOTE: Mugshots in .jpg file formats of board members are available by calling Chuck Gysi at 287-7117, Ext. 104, or sending an e-mail to Chuck@FirstHomes.org.

For immediate release

Feb. 16, 2005

First Homes re-elects officers

The Rochester Area Foundation's First Homes Board of Directors has re-elected officers for 2005.

Elected to new terms are: Karel Weigel, chair; Roxanne Hellickson, vice-chair; Trent Fluegel, secretary; and Jo Mahn, treasurer.

In addition, Ahmed Elkhalfataha, a First Homes homeowner, has joined the board for a one-year term.

Since the First Homes initiative got under way in 2000, more than 400 single-family homes have been purchased through the First Homes program and 229 below-market-rate rental units have been built for working families – in a total of 11 communities to date. These communities include Grand Meadow, Byron, Dover, Hayfield, Kasson, Pine Island, Chatfield, St. Charles, Plainview, Rochester and Spring Valley. First Homes is continuing toward its goal of building 875 new starter homes for working families in a 30-mile radius of Rochester.

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The Rochester Area Foundation has raised more than \$13 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.