FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Thursday, Sept. 9, 2004

CONTACT:
Steve Campbell, [317] 327-3622
Justin Ohlemiller, [317] 327-6709

New apartments for homeless and low-income households open on city’s near east side
Mayor praises progress on plan to end homelessness; says there is still much work ahead

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Bart Peterson today joined representatives from Partners in Housing Development Corporation, community leaders and local residents in a ceremony celebrating the grand opening for phase one of Colonial Park, a rehabilitated apartment complex on the city’s near east side. The complex will provide permanent housing and support services for chronically homeless and low-income individuals.

Phase one of Colonial Park consists of 40 apartment units, half of which will house formerly homeless individuals. The remainder of the units will be reserved at very affordable rates for persons at or below 30 percent of the area median family income (which is just over $19,000 for a family of four). When all three phases are complete, Colonial Park will feature 106 units, all of which will be rented to very low-income households or chronically homeless individuals. Support services, such as mental health counseling, job training and healthcare services, will also be available onsite to assist residents.

Colonial Park is a project supported by the Blueprint to End Homelessness, the city’s ambitious plan released in 2002 to end chronic homelessness in Indianapolis.

"Colonial Park is a great example of the type of quality, affordable housing called for in the Blueprint to End Homelessness," said Mayor Peterson. "Thanks to these new affordable apartments, low-income residents and formerly homeless individuals will have safe, decent places to live, as well as access to support services that will provide them with the skills and tools necessary to succeed in life."

More than 15,000 people experience homelessness in Indianapolis each year. Another 45,000 people – men, women and children – are experiencing a housing crisis. Sadly, almost 4,500 children are homeless during the course of a year.

The Blueprint to End Homelessness calls for an approach that not only places chronically homeless individuals and families in affordable housing, but also works to prevent future homelessness by helping them obtain the skills and resources they need to remain in their current housing. The plan calls for helping 2,100 households in the first five years and substantially more families and individuals in the years to follow.

Colonial Park, owned and managed by Partners in Housing, is the culmination of a public/private partnership involving several businesses, agencies and organizations. Project partners include the City of Indianapolis, Fifth Third Bank, Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention, the Indiana Department of...
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Commerce, National City Bank, Union Planters Bank, Local Initiative Support Corporation, Home Depot, the Indianapolis Housing Agency, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, United Way of Central Indiana and the Lilly Endowment.

“This is this type of community partnership that is necessary to achieve our goal of stemming the tide of homelessness in Indianapolis,” said Mayor Peterson. “There is no doubt Colonial Park and other ongoing affordable housing developments are signs of progress toward the goals outlined in the Blueprint. However, there is still much work to be done.”

Of the total project cost of $7.1 million, the city contributed $1.8 million in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the acquisition and rehabilitation of Colonial Park. The city also helped provide rental assistance through federal grants for 25 units.

Since 2000, the city has invested more than $15 million of its annual appropriation from HUD in projects and initiatives that support very low-income households, or those making at or below 30 percent of the area median family income. The city also has appropriated $500,000 in HUD funding for rental assistance for very low-income families.

As a result of the city’s investment in affordable housing, more than 1,000 units for very low-income households were constructed, rehabilitated or preserved.