



## montgomeryhousingpartnership, inc.

Working Together to Build Strong Communities

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### **Community Center To Be Dedicated In Memory of Affordable Housing Advocate**

#### **Annie R. Collins to be remembered at Great Hope Homes**

**February 29, 2008, Silver Spring, MD** - On Friday March 7, 2008 at 10 a.m., Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) will celebrate the memory of Annie R. Collins with the dedication of the community center at Great Hope Homes in her honor. Mrs. Collins, a NIH researcher and chemist, was involved in housing, education and voting rights issues in Montgomery County and led her community in the fight against economic and racial discrimination. In 1985 she was honored by the NAACP for decades of “community awareness, citizenship and human kindness.”

Great Hope Homes was originally a large tract of land in the Colesville area of Silver Spring that was settled by an African American family from North Carolina who inherited the property from ancestors after emancipation. By 1965, the Good Hope settlement consisted of substandard housing without electricity, water or sewer systems on an unpaved road. In the late 1960's, Annie Collins organized a group of 14 churches into a non-profit so that the land could be preserved as affordable housing for the families living there. With the help of Montgomery County, 104 new rental town homes were constructed.

In 2000, MHP purchased the property after it fell into disrepair and was in danger of being sold to luxury town home developers. MHP and their partners invested \$11.7 million into the rehabilitation of the property and built a community center which had originally been promised to residents in the 1970s. Through their Community Life program, MHP provides a variety of programs at the community center including a preschool, homework club and teen program for the families.

“Annie worked so hard to preserve affordable housing in her community,” states Robert Goldman, President of MHP. “The dedication of the Great Hope Homes community center is one way we can keep her memory and mission alive.”

*Montgomery Housing Partnership's (MHP) is a community-based, nonprofit organization that works to preserve and expand affordable housing in Montgomery County, Maryland and to strengthen neighborhoods through housing and community revitalization activities. MHP is the largest non-profit developer, owner and manager of affordable housing in Montgomery County and has over 1,000 properties in its portfolio.*

