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MHP and Arcola Elementary School Launch 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Wheaton

\$1.1 Million Grant Allows Nonprofit Developer to Expand Curriculum at Afterschool Programs

(Silver Spring, MD – September 30, 2013) – Montgomery Housing Partnership, Inc. (MHP), a private nonprofit housing developer, announced today that it has received a 5-year, \$1.1 million grant from the Maryland State Department of Education to develop and operate two 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) in partnership with Arcola Elementary School in Wheaton, Maryland.

MHP owns three affordable housing communities near the school, which provides nearly 300 units of affordable rental housing to low- and moderate-income families living in the transit-oriented neighborhood. MHP has operated community centers for its residents at its Amherst Square and Pembridge Square communities for several years, producing award winning Community Life Programs for preschool, elementary school age children, and teens.

The 21st Century grant enables MHP to transform its afterschool programs by strengthening the math, reading, and science skills of the students it serves who reside at MHP's properties. The newly enhanced program, called Great Achievers Toward Outstanding Results (GATOR), opened September 9th at Amherst Square and Pembridge Square with an enrollment of 72 students. An additional GATOR center will open at Arcola Elementary School on October 7th and serve 48 students. The two sites will operate Monday through Friday for 2 ¼ hours each day through June.

“Our residents have often said they were initially drawn to MHP properties for the affordable rents and convenient location to transit, but stayed because of the support their families received,” said Robert A. Goldman, MHP's President. “Helping children excel in school has been a priority of MHP's Community Life Programs for many years, so we are thrilled to expand our long-term relationship with Arcola Elementary School to include a STEM curriculum and an additional center at the school.”

The 21st CCLC was created by Congress to help states create community learning centers that provide students with academic enrichment opportunities as well as additional services designed to complement their regular academic program. Community learning centers must offer families of participating students, literacy instruction and related educational development programs. Proposed activities target students and families of students who attend schools eligible for Title I school-wide programs, or schools that serve a high percentage of students from low-income families.

MHP's holistic approach to housing includes providing affordable rents, developing educational programs for residents to expand their opportunities and balance their lives, and implementing neighborhood revitalization efforts. For more information about its work, visit www.MHPpartners.org or follow on Facebook and Twitter.

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About MHP

Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) creates quality, affordable homes in Montgomery County. It is a private, nonprofit housing development organization that advances its mission by housing people, empowering families, and strengthening neighborhoods. Through its affiliates, MHP has developed more than 1,300 units of affordable apartments, condos and townhomes. MHP also works with residents to enhance the vitality of the neighborhoods where affordable housing is located, and implements Community Life Programs for its residents. It is a chartered member of NeighborWorks® America.