



Vermont
Works for
Women

-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --

**Governor Douglas, AHS Secretary LaWare,
DOC Commissioner Hofmann and Other Officials to Attend
Ribbon-cutting of Home Built by Women Offenders**

Springfield, Vt. – On Tuesday, November 13th at 2:00pm, Governor James Douglas will perform the ribbon-cutting honors for a new three-bedroom modular home in Springfield constructed by women incarcerated at the Southeast State Correctional Facility in Windsor. Agency of Human Services Secretary Cynthia LaWare, Department of Corrections Rob Hofmann, Labor Department Commissioner Pat Moulton-Powden and other Vermont officials will also

participate. The public is welcomed.

This project, spearheaded by Vermont Works for Women, a Vermont-based non-profit organization, is part of the Department of Corrections (DOC) Workforce Development Program. 25 women were involved in building the home. The women were trained in frame and finish carpentry, electrical wiring, plumbing, roofing, sheet-rocking and more, and hand built the house in two sections on the prison grounds. Their training also included a classroom component emphasizing “soft skills,” job search activities, and further technical instruction that, when coupled with the hands-on work, leads to skills certification in carpentry at various levels. The program is designed to help women leave prison with a track record of skills and employment that will help them access jobs upon release that pay a livable wage.

Rockingham Area Community Land Trust’s NeighborWorks[®] HomeOwnership Center has found a buyer for the house, who will agree to provisions that will enable the house to be permanently affordable to moderate income households. The Springfield Housing Authority has offered the land – one of seven lots it hopes to develop for affordable homeownership – to the project, with financial assistance from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The project was funded through a number of different public and private sources including DOC, the VT Department for Children and Families, the VT Department of Labor, Chittenden Bank, Agnes Lindsay Trust, Lydia B. Stokes Foundation, Key Bank, and from the sale of the house.

Tuesday November 13, 2007

Event: Ribbon cutting ceremony for women offender-built modular home
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Location: Summit Street, Springfield, Vermont
To attend: Call (802) 878-0004 extension 100 for more information

Directions to the modular home site

Take I-91 to Exit 7, Springfield. At the bottom of the ramp, take Rte. 11 West (This is also called Charlestown Road, and the name changes to Clinton Road). Follow this road through Springfield (it will merge with 106). As you are leaving town, you will come to a large curve in the road, where 106 and 11 split (there is a stoplight here, and a shopping center with a McDonalds slightly ahead and off to the left). Take a right here – onto Eaton Avenue – and proceed up a hill. At the top of the hill bear left (look for the small tent outside a white ranch house).

For more information, contact: Tiffany Bluemle, Executive Director

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