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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**State Representative Patti Bellock Headlines  
DuPage Homeownership Center's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration**

*DuPage Habitat for Humanity Honored with Robert Christ Award for  
Innovative Green Partnerships*

State Representative Patti Bellock (R-47) will deliver the keynote address at the DuPage Homeownership Center's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration on Thursday, June 4, 2009, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Danada House Atrium, in Wheaton.

"We are thrilled to have Rep. Bellock, a strong advocate and friend to the Center, speak at our annual event, said Dru Bergman, DHOC executive director. Her knowledge and understanding of the issues facing homeowners in this economic climate as well as her experience as an Illinois legislator promises to make this an insightful address."

Tickets to the event are \$35 in advance and \$40 at the door. They can be purchased by calling the Center at (630) 260-2500.

The 2009 Robert Christ Affordable Housing Award will be presented to DuPage Habitat for Humanity for its innovative green partnerships in the development of a \$3 million Habitat for Humanity residential subdivision in DuPage County. A team of "green" experts, led by ComEd and College of DuPage, have advised DuPage Habitat

on key affordability and sustainability decisions. Habitat's "green" team includes representatives from: Bigelow Homes, Centex Homes, College of DuPage, ComEd, Kouba-Cavallo Associates Inc, Nicor, Pizzo & Associates, and The Savannah Group. The new homes, which will be built in the Pioneer Prairie neighborhood of suburban West Chicago, will allow 11 limited-income families to purchase attainable, sustainable homes.

The Christ Award is presented annually by the DuPage Homeownership Center to an individual or organization that has made substantial contributions to affordable housing in DuPage County. The award is named for the Center's founding Board President, Robert Christ, a leading affordable housing activist who died in 1995.

The DuPage Homeownership Center is a non-profit, HUD-certified housing counseling agency serving DuPage County. The Center offers free education classes and individual counseling for first-time home buyers, free foreclosure prevention counseling for DuPage County homeowners in financial crisis, and free reverse mortgage counseling for cash-strapped senior homeowners. For more information about any of the Center's programs, visit us on the web at [www.dhoc.org](http://www.dhoc.org).

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