



**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE  
CITY OF MILWAUKEE**

For release April 27, 2004

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Secretary-Executive Director

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Chair, Board of Commissioners

## **National Honor for Housing Authority's Lapham Park Venture**

(Milwaukee) - The Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee is the winner of the 2004 National Social Advocacy Award, one of the American Planning Association's annual prestigious National Planning Awards.

The National Social Advocacy Award, presented annually in honor of advocacy planning pioneer Paul Davidoff, was given the Housing Authority for the Lapham Park Venture. Judges determined the Venture to be best of six entries submitted in the category. The entry demonstrated the Housing Authority's sustained commitment to planning for the needs of less fortunate members of society. The award was presented in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Lapham Park Venture is a low-income public housing development operated by the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM). More than 30 percent of its residents are over 70 years old and 98 percent are African-American. Faced with an ever-shrinking pool of resources, and a growing demand to meet the health care needs of the frail elderly residents, stakeholders formed the Lapham Park Venture. The effort brought together in one location the practitioners of gerontology, housing, planning and social services. "This is integrated on-site care, said Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. "This is a national model for providing affordable health care for low-income seniors that is saving taxpayers more than \$1 million annually."



The venture is in the 14,000 square foot basement of the Lapham Park nine-story complex, formerly a dimly lit maze of rooms used primarily for storage. The Housing Authority renovated the basement into a winding, indoor commercial "street", referred to as Lower Walnut Street, after the original, vital African American commercial district nearby that many residents recall from its busiest days in the 1930s and '40s. There are a beauty parlor, barbershop, and medical consultation and treatment rooms. There's a gym. Park benches grace the circular walk, as residents make their way to physician offices, a movie theater and whirlpool baths. Residents can get prescription drug refills at an office within the renovated space.

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HACM raised \$1.3 million from corporate donors and foundations to finance the basement renovation, which allows residents to “age in place”, without having to seek new living accommodations as health challenges increase.

“This is a great honor that we share with our partners in this venture,” said Willie L. Hines, Jr., chairman of the HACM board and President of the Milwaukee Common Council. Partners with the Housing Authority in the Lapham Park Venture are listed below, along with a description of the service each contributes.

- **Marquette University:** on-site student community service
- **Milwaukee County Department on Aging:** funding for case management, transportation, community-based long-term care, operation of meal site
- **Social Development Commission:** meal program management
- **Community Care Organization:** on-site medical care
- **St. Mary’s:** Family Practice & Community Education Center Student Program
- **YWCA:** on-site exercise, tutorial services
- **S.E.T Ministry:** outreach, case management staff
- **Alzheimer’s Assn. of Southeastern WI:** Circle of Friends, socialization skills
- **Lapham Park Resident Organization:** resident advocacy, project liaison
- **MATC:** dental hygiene (students doing assessments)

Additional information on the Lapham Park Venture and the National Social Advocacy Award is available at the link provided below.

**Article in APA’s April *Planning* magazine:**

[http://www.hacm.org/news/APA\\_2004\\_Planning\\_Award.PDFT](http://www.hacm.org/news/APA_2004_Planning_Award.PDFT)

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