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Champlain Housing Trust Wins \$100,000 Housing for Everyone Award from TD Charitable Foundation

Award to help expand affordable lending program

Burlington, Vermont – The Champlain Housing Trust announced today that the organization has been selected as a winner of the TD Charitable Foundation’s 2011 Housing for Everyone competition, one of 25 selected nationally out of a pool of about 500 submissions.

The Housing for Everyone award comes with a \$100,000 grant to advance CHT’s efforts to provide and sustain affordable housing in northwestern Vermont. The grant specifically will be dedicated to an expansion of the Champlain Housing Loan Fund, CHT’s affordable lending arm, including attaining Community Development Financial Institution certification from the United States Treasury.

“We are so very thankful for TD’s support of our work to grow and diversify our programs to build sustainability in these uncertain times,” said Brenda Torpy, CEO of the Housing Trust. “We are challenged by the need for our services even as mainly traditional funding sources have diminished, so we are appreciative that the TD Charitable Foundation stepped forward to help us build our capacity to grow towards the future.”

This year’s Housing for Everyone theme was *Building for the Future*, focusing on three critical areas in affordable housing:

- Energy efficiency, including weatherization initiatives, HVAC improvements, or implementation of alternative or renewable energy sources;
- Capacity building, including the expansion of programmatic efforts or staff development for organizations that provide affordable housing services for low-to-moderate-income individuals or in low-to-moderate-income communities. Infrastructure investment to expand services provided will also be considered;
- And new unit creation, where organizations focus their efforts on the creation of new affordable housing units that benefit low-to-moderate-income individuals or communities.

The Housing for Everyone grant competition is one of the TD Charitable Foundation’s most widely known signature programs. The competition invites local non-profit organizations from Maine to

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Florida to submit proposals outlining their plans and initiatives to support and provide affordable housing initiatives in their communities. Twenty-five organizations throughout TD Bank's footprint from Maine to Florida were awarded a \$100,000 grant for a total grant donation of \$2.5 million in 2011.

About the Champlain Housing Trust

The Champlain Housing Trust, founded in 1984, is the largest community land trust in the country. Throughout Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle counties, CHT owns or manages more than 1,500 apartments, stewards 500 owner-occupied homes in its signature shared-equity program, provides services to five housing cooperatives, and offers affordable energy efficiency and rehab loans. In 2008, CHT won the prestigious United Nations World Habitat Award, recognizing its innovative, sustainable programs. More information is available at www.champlainhousingtrust.org or via Twitter (www.twitter.com/chtrust) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/chtrust).

About the TD Charitable Foundation

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