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MEDIA RELEASE

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Providence Community Housing and The Salvation Army team up to “Welcome Home” seniors

NEW ORLEANS – November 6, 2008 – Providence Community Housing and The Salvation Army today celebrated the year anniversary of the renovation of St. Ann Square Apartments with its 43 senior residents. For the low-income seniors living at St. Ann Square Apartments, getting back to New Orleans was as much of a struggle as adjusting to their new environs – after the massive displacement caused by Hurricane Katrina. With help from a \$1.2 million grant from The Salvation Army, Providence Community Housing has been able to assist the residents of St. Ann Square with furniture to equip their apartments through the Providence / Salvation Army “Welcome Home” Program. Over the course of this summer, staff worked one-on-one with residents in assessing their needs – many of whom lost all of their furniture and personal effects in the wake of the storm. The program allowed residents to purchase furniture – including couches, beds, and dining sets – to help them truly feel at home again.

After taking on considerable flood damage due to Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, St. Ann Square Apartments was renovated and re-opened last year - providing the 43 seniors who live there a place they proudly can call home again. Over the next eighteen months, Providence Community Housing will renovate an additional 700 units of senior housing – providing these new and returning residents the same opportunity to receive furniture from the “Welcome Home” program.

“It is exciting to see the sense of community among new and returning residents at St. Ann Square. With the help of this program, residents are even more proud of their home – as it has provided them with quality furniture that enhances their daily lives – whether it is eating meal at a new dining table, sleeping better on new mattress, or resting comfortably on a new couch.” – Father Michael Jacques, pastor of St. Peter Claver Church and Board Chair of Providence Community Housing.

The main building, 2123 Ursulines Avenue that houses 42 studios and apartments, was heavily damaged by 4 feet of flood waters on its first floor and was vacant since the storm. In April 2007, UJAMAA CDC, a non-profit development corporation formed by Fr. Michael Jacques of St. Peter Claver Church in Tremé, and JP Morgan Capital Corporation, the original tax credit partners, invited Providence Community Housing to become part of the St. Ann Square ownership structure and it was Providence that managed the building’s renovation. In October 2007, the building was completed and residents began moving into the apartments; twelve of whom were former residents before the storm. 2117 Ursulines, an adjoining historic structure that was used as a community-service facility for St. Ann Square, and 2139 Ursulines, a 2-story house with one senior apartment and a live-in apartment for maintenance staff, were renovated earlier this year using a \$60,000 grant from the State of Louisiana Historic Building Recovery Program.

Today’s celebration at the St. Ann Activity Center highlights the good work of The Salvation Army in helping the seniors at St. Ann and marks the final completion of efforts to fully restore the property to its former glory, and as a stabilizing anchor in the Tremé community. The residents of St. Ann, have

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overcome numerous challenges in order to return home, and their stories provide testimony to the resilience of New Orleanians as a whole.

"The opportunity for The Salvation Army to participate in the lives of a wonderful generation is an honor. Doing the Most Good is testified to in the eyes of thanksgiving. We are thankful to Providence Community Housing for this partnership opportunity," said Captain Ethan Frizzell, Area Commander of The Salvation Army.

"This partnership with The Salvation Army demonstrates that providing shelter is not enough. Helping our seniors create a new sense of home – after so much was lost – is even more important," said James R. Kelly, President & CEO of Providence Community Housing.

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Based in New Orleans, Providence Community Housing is a non-profit affordable housing developer founded by a coalition of Catholic groups in April 2006 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Providence has a five-year goal to bring home 20,000 victims of Hurricane Katrina by restoring, rebuilding or developing 7,000 homes to foster healthy, diverse and vibrant new communities, both single-family homes and apartments – including 1,500 affordable homes for seniors. Visit www.providencech.org to learn more about Providence's work in the City of New Orleans.

The Salvation Army, an evangelical part of the universal Christian church established in 1865, has been supporting those in need in His name without discrimination for 128 years in the United States. Nearly 29 million Americans receive assistance from The Salvation Army each year through the broadest array of social services that range from providing food for the hungry, relief for disaster victims, assistance for the disabled, outreach to the elderly and ill, clothing and shelter to the homeless and opportunities for underprivileged children. About 83 cents of every dollar raised is used to support those services in 5,000 communities nationwide. For more information, go to www.salvationarmyusa.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY.