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FIRST FRAMING HOPE WAREHOUSE IN THE NATION OPENS IN BUFFALO; OFFERS LOW-COST, HIGH-QUALITY MATERIALS TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

[Buffalo, NY] – Thursday, December 10, 2009, WNY AmeriCorps, Gifts In Kind International, and The Home Depot Foundation announced the opening of the WNY AmeriCorps “Framing Hope Warehouse” at 635 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, NY, the first such warehouse in the nation, offering building and renovating materials to local non-profits at a low cost. A ribbon cutting ceremony opened the doors to the warehouse at 2:30 PM with special guests from Gifts In Kind International and The Home Depot Foundation.

Materials available at the WNY AmeriCorps “Framing Hope Warehouse” include lighting, doors, high-efficiency windows, cabinets, fencing, window treatments, tile, paneling, trim, and bathroom fixtures, all donated by local The Home Depot stores.

The warehouse will be open by appointment only for the time being, with plans to hold regular hours in the future. Non-profit organizations interested in touring the warehouse and purchasing materials should contact WNY AmeriCorps at (716) 558-3325 to set up an appointment.

“Gifts In Kind is honored to be part of this great partnership with WNY AmeriCorps and The Home Depot Foundation. Buffalo faces many challenges, as one of the neediest communities in the country. Unemployment is high, and a majority of the housing structures in the city were built before 1939,” said Cindy Hallberlin, President and CEO of Gifts In Kind International, the leading product philanthropy nonprofit in the country. “The ‘Framing Hope’ program helps Buffalo residents who are living in homes and apartments that are inhabitable. It offers encouragement to the desperate and forgotten who are so grateful that we care enough to give them the tools to create a safe and secure environment for their families.”

The materials presently available at the WNY AmeriCorps “Framing Hope Warehouse” are donated by The Home Depot Foundation to Gifts In Kind International, who in turn provides them to WNY AmeriCorps for use in community revitalization projects and maintaining a warehouse for non-profits.

“The Framing Hope Product Donation Program is an integral part of how The Home Depot supports our communities while helping the environment,” said Kelly Caffarelli, president of The Home Depot Foundation. “We are proud to partner with Gifts In Kind International on the new warehouse strategy to provide smaller nonprofit organizations access to good quality merchandise

at a minimal cost. We believe this will make a profound impact on local housing programs and the families they serve and reduce the amount of material our stores send to landfills.”

The WNY AmeriCorps “Framing Hope Warehouse” will be the first such warehouse opened through Gifts In Kind International grants in the nation with \$364,000 in total grant funds and in-kind product donation from The Home Depot Foundation to get the warehouse prepared for business.

“Our past projects have proven time and time again, when you match the proper resources with willing and dedicated individuals extraordinary things take place,” Mark P. Lazzara, CEO of WNY AmeriCorps said. “This warehouse is all about providing those proper resources to our members, partners, and community volunteers to make progress in the Greater Buffalo area. Gifts In Kind International and The Home Depot Foundation are providing a tremendous resource to our community to create safe and sustainable housing.”

Gifts In Kind International helps companies help charities, by identifying and helping to distribute new product donations, including books, toys, clothing, home improvement materials, computers and more, to qualified nonprofit organizations. Ranked by Forbes Magazine as one of the nation’s best managed and most efficient charities in the country, Gifts In Kind International distributed products valued at nearly \$500 million in 2008 alone.

The Home Depot Foundation is dedicated to building affordable homes for working families that are healthy to live in and affordable to own. To make homes healthy and affordable, the Foundation encourages developers to incorporate responsible design and use durable materials to ensure that homes are more energy and water efficient, have good indoor air quality, and provide a safe and healthy space to live.

WNY AmeriCorps creates opportunities for all individuals to serve, challenging citizens to turn their ideals into action and their passion into positive change. Through transformational service and civic responsibility, WNY AmeriCorps is designing a sustainable future for our nation’s communities.

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