CAMBA HOUSING VENTURES WINS MAJOR GRANT FROM TD BANK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

The TD Bank Charitable Foundation, an arm of TD Bank, N.A., presented a $100,000 check to CAMBA Housing Ventures (CHV) to develop affordable housing in Flatbush, Brooklyn. CHV is taking part in the Mayor’s 10-year plan to create or preserve 165,000 units of affordable housing by 2013.

The grant will support the development of CAMBA’s 97 Crooke Avenue site, which will offer affordable and supportive housing to lower-income community residents and formerly homeless individuals leaving the city’s shelter system.

“Access to affordable housing in New York has always been a challenge for low to middle income individuals. Thanks to TD Bank Charitable Foundation’s support, CAMBA will be able to further its mission of helping people find a place to live,” says CAMBA Executive Director Joanne M. Oplustil.

“GOOD MORNING AMERICA” DONATES 600 COATS

CAMBA’s Executive Director Joanne M. Oplustil visited the set of ABC-TV’s Good Morning America in December to accept a donation of 600 winter coats.

Good Morning America partnered with One Warm Coat and Burlington Coat Factory to donate coats to five nonprofits, including CAMBA. One Warm Coat’s goals are “to provide free warm coats to anyone in need, as well as help nurture volunteerism.”

CAMBA also received a generous donation of toys from Good Morning America and K Mart.

Although the holidays are behind us and a New Year has begun, we encourage you to embrace the spirit of giving year-round.

As you will see in this issue, CAMBA has been fortunate to have steadfast individual and corporate supporters whose monetary or in-kind donations have helped us to continue our mission of helping people to succeed and become self-sufficient.

CAMBA programs and services have moved individuals and families out of the shelter system into homes of their own. We have helped immigrants become acclimated to their new lives in the U.S. We have helped young people succeed in school, helped people find jobs and much more.

Now more than ever CAMBA needs your support, so that we can continue to help stabilize individuals, families and communities.

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CAMBA OBSERVES WORLD AIDS DAY

CAMBA marked the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day on December 1 with a full day of programs highlighting the impact of the disease in Brooklyn and beyond. CAMBA staffers and clients began the day by distributing red ribbons, flyers and pamphlets with information on local, national and international statistics on HIV/AIDS to morning rush-hour passersby at six subway stations in Central Brooklyn. The distribution was followed by an AIDS Walk up Flatbush Avenue from CAMBA's Winthrop Street office (where its HIV/AIDS services are headquartered) to bustling Church Avenue.

The walk attracted a large following along the way and culminated on the steps of the Flatbush Dutch Reformed Church, where members of CAMBA's Anti-Stigma Squad performed a skit on AIDS prevention that was capped with songs and a memorial balloon release. The audience was also invited into the church to view the BET special Stigma: The Silent Killer, which featured CAMBA's own Geneva Musgrave of Anti-Stigma Intervention.

According to Michael Erhard, CAMBA's Assistant Deputy Director responsible for health-related services, “Our HIV/AIDS efforts are always focused on helping community members become informed and involved.”

CAMBA's HIV/AIDS program area provides education programs, case management services and housing.

CAMBA RAISES $200,000 FOR NEW YORK KIDS

CAMBA's participation in A Celebration to Benefit New York Kids 2008 on November 20 was a great success. Approximately 125 guests enjoyed a private CAMBA reception followed by a performance featuring the hit band from Movin' On and a Best of Broadway revue. In our fourth year as a participating organization, we raised $200,000 from corporations and individuals—double the amount we raised last year.

We are very grateful to CAMBA's Celebration co-chairs, who worked hard to make the event a success: Terence Kelleher, David Lagé, Katherine O’Neill, James Palazza, Charles Scibetta and Christopher Zarra. All except Lagé and Palazza are CAMBA board members. In addition to helping raise funds, Palazza obtained attractive St. John gift bags and solicited items for us to include, along with the CAMBA premiums that were given to everyone who attended.

Youth I.N.C. is a nonprofit that helps build the private fundraising capacity of 20-25 organizations each year by sponsoring and managing Celebration, and by providing a range of workshops and consulting services throughout the year.
SHONA HOLIDAY SALE IS A SUCCESS

Enthusiastic collectors from all parts of the tri-state area came to Brooklyn December 5-7 to purchase the stunning sculptures featured in CAMBA’s Holiday Sale of Stone Sculptures from Zimbabwe. Pieces created by some of Zimbabwe’s best established and emerging Shona sculptors were featured in the three-day sale, which benefitted CAMBA’s programs.

In addition to providing artful gifts, the holiday sale served as a preview for our larger spring 2009 Shona sale. New pieces arriving from Zimbabwe in time for the holiday sale caught the attention of those attending. Many are now eagerly awaiting our spring event. Watch for an announcement of the spring sale dates in an upcoming issue.

CLIFFORD CHANCE VOLUNTEERS VISIT LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL

Volunteers from New York law firm Clifford Chance joined CAMBA staffers and students for a special Service Day at the School for Democracy & Leadership (SDL) in Flatbush, Brooklyn. The volunteers helped spruce up the school and plant trees.

The day-long volunteer project was coordinated by youth service agency City Year. Clifford Chance’s participation was facilitated by CAMBA board member Charles J. Scibetta.

CAMBA has been a lead community partner at SDL since 2006 and is responsible for ensuring that students and families have the resources and support they need to thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

FOOD FOR THE HOLIDAYS

New businesses donating to CAMBA’s Beyond Hunger Food Pantry include Budget Business Supply, Groupe Sanglier and Franklin Printing. These donations and those from our corporate partners, community members and CAMBA staff helped fill the pantry during the holiday season. We raised more than $6,000 in cash and in-kind donations, making our holiday 2008 Food Drive our most successful ever.

The donations ensured that CAMBA’s Food Pantry remained open through the holidays. CAMBA’s food pantry experienced a 300% increase in use since August 2007. We are extremely grateful to our food pantry supporters for helping us serve the individuals and families who needed our help most through the holidays. Still, remember that there is a dire need all year long. For more information on how you can donate to the food pantry, contact Janet Miller, Director of Homeless Prevention Programs/Legal Services at 718.287.0010 ext. 224.
YOU CAN HELP CAMBA MAKE AN IMPACT.

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution of:

- $50  - $100  - $250  - $500  - Other: $_______

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