CAMBA GARDENS BREAKS GROUND

On November 4, CAMBA Housing Ventures, Inc. (CHV), together with Enterprise Community Investment and a host of partnering organizations and elected officials, broke ground for CAMBA Gardens, a $67 million, LEED Platinum-certified, affordable and supportive housing development being built on the site of two vacant buildings located on the grounds of Kings County Hospital in Flatbush, Brooklyn.

A national model for partnerships between public hospitals, non-profit developers, service providers and community stakeholders, CAMBA Gardens will create affordable housing, connect patients being discharged from inpatient care to stable housing and critical social services, provide tenants with access to healthcare and generate revenue for area businesses.

Joanne M. Oplustil, Executive Director of CAMBA/CHV, said, “For the last 34 years, CAMBA has worked closely with New Yorkers facing a variety of obstacles daily, and we recognize that affordable housing, access to supportive services and quality healthcare need to work concurrently to ensure a quality of life. CAMBA Gardens presents a unique opportunity to provide all three for the community.”

CAMBA Gardens is one of only a few housing developments nationwide to use underutilized hospital property for housing. When completed in 2013, it will provide 209 apartments in two six-story buildings.

Financing for CAMBA Gardens was provided by private, public and government entities including Corporation for Supportive Housing, Enterprise, Deutsche Bank, TD Bank, New York State Homes & Community Renewal, New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, New York State Homeless Housing Assistance Corporation, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, City Council Member Dr. Mathieu Eugene, NYSERDA and the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York Affordable Housing Program, with its member bank HSBC. Additional support was provided by Ameriprise Financial, Brooklyn Community Foundation, Capital One, HSBC, JP Morgan Chase and the Neighborhood Opportunities Fund.

A host of supporters helped CAMBA Housing Ventures, Inc. (CHV) break ground for CAMBA Gardens, a $67 million affordable and supportive housing development scheduled to open in 2013 at 690 and 738 Albany Avenue in Brooklyn. Established in 2005 to focus on building and operating permanent affordable housing, CHV is more than half way to its goal of creating 1,000 units by 2015.
CAMBA has successfully managed the Park Slope Women’s Shelter for the past 15 years. Shelter residents, community members and CAMBA staff celebrated our 15th anniversary at the shelter on October 27.

CAMBA AND THE PARK SLOPE WOMEN’S SHELTER: 15 YEARS AND COUNTING

It has been 15 years since we started managing the Park Slope Women’s Shelter, a 70-bed facility for mentally ill, chemically addicted homeless women.

We are proud of the many dramatic improvements we made for the betterment of the shelter residents and surrounding community.

Since 1996, CAMBA has provided coordinated psychiatric, health and benefit services to shelter residents, most of whom are stable enough to move into permanent and supportive housing within six to nine months.

CAMBA’s work at the shelter earned a #1 rank in the entire New York City shelter system in 2009 for placing 198% of our contracted goal for permanent housing.

We ranked #2 in 2010, but were the top-ranked non-screened mental health shelter for the third year in a row, an achievement accomplished despite dramatic cuts in supportive housing funding for homeless persons.

We are most grateful for the ongoing support of our community partners and local residents for their help in making the shelter a success. Once considered an intrusion, PSWS is now truly part of the community. Neighbors and local organizations and faith-based institutions have volunteered their time and skills to help PSWS residents.

We thank all who have helped us make PSWS a shining example of how a community can work together to help improve the lives of those in need. ♦

CAMBA NIGHT OUT IS A SUCCESS

CAMBA’s Night Out, our signature annual fundraising event, went off spectacularly on November 17 at the award-winning Galapagos Art Space in Brooklyn’s trendy DUMBO neighborhood.

CAMBA honored TD Bank for its outstanding community service. Our guests enjoyed a variety of entertainment.

The festive evening raised $231,000, even more than last year’s event. The funds benefit our comprehensive programs and services to 45,000 individuals and families.

Major supporters included Bruno Frustaci Contracting, Inc.; Capital One Bank; Schmutter, Strull, Fleisch, Inc.; Katherine and Charles O’Neill; Raiche Ende Malter & Co., LLP, Galaxy Contracts Group and Julia Beardwood.

Visit camba.org for a complete list of donors and photographs of the event. ♦

CAMBA JOINS THE HOMETOWN HUDDLE

Last fall CAMBA joined forces with the United Way of New York City and the National Football League (NFL) for the 13th Annual Hometown Huddle.

More than 100 employees of the NFL, the faculty and staff of Expeditionary Learning School for Community Leaders (ELSCL) in Gravesend, Brooklyn, and CAMBA staff planted gardens, painted a mural and created a dance studio at the school. NY Jets punter T.J. Conley also ran a football and fitness clinic.

Hometown Huddle is part of the United Way’s nationwide call to action to LIVE UNITED: to give, advocate and volunteer on issues related to education, income or health.

ELSCL participates in United Way’s citywide Graduate, Prepare, Succeed initiative, a dropout prevention program. CAMBA implements the program at ELSCL. ♦
CAMBA KIDS CELEBRATE LIGHTS ON AFTER-SCHOOL

In October, students in CAMBA’s after-school programs participated in Lights On Afterschool, a national celebration of the role of after-school programs in the lives of students and their families organized by the Washington, D.C.-based Afterschool Alliance.

Elementary students from CAMBA's Kids Succeed, Kids World, Kids Unite and Kids Express programs participated through writing, art projects, lessons, games and activities.

CAMBA runs eleven after-school programs designed to engage young people in learning activities that build upon, but are different from, school-day studies. Parent participation is encouraged through family nights, club showcases and referrals to other needed services.

CAMBA COMBATS HIV STIGMA WITH A PERSONAL APPROACH

CAMBA's Anti-Stigma Project launched a social marketing campaign designed to break down the barriers that prevent people from discussing HIV/AIDS, being tested and seeking care—especially in Brooklyn, which has 26.9% of New York City’s newly reported cases, the highest rating in all five boroughs.

June 2011 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s official recognition of the AIDS epidemic. CAMBA has been committed to implementing new strategies to address HIV for 23 years. While general awareness of HIV/AIDS has grown through the years, public reticence about discussing and dealing openly with this health crisis has not evolved aspace.

CAMBA’s Anti-Stigma Project theater troupe at community venues and events.

For details of CAMBA’s HIV Anti-Stigma Project, contact Geneva Musgrave at 718.462.8654.

CAMBA YOUTH WINS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Chante Anthony, a young woman housed in a CAMBA family shelter program, received a $10,000 college scholarship from the New York City Department of Education. While acknowledging that her life “has not been the easiest, she says, “I was always told that it doesn’t matter what you have, just be wise enough to have an educational foundation; because it is the one thing that can’t be taken from you.”

CAMBA is proud of Chante, who is now attending LeMoyne College in upstate New York. Her accomplishments prove that even in challenging circumstances youth can persevere and excel.

Operational since 2007, CAMBA’s family shelter program helps up to 400 families, helping them to stabilize and find permanent housing.
THANK YOU! We salute the following for their generous support. (Listed are corporate/individual donations of $500 and above and in-kind donations from May 1–November 30, 2011.)

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You can help CAMBA make an impact.

Donate online at camba.org or use the enclosed envelope.