

For Immediate Release

March 14, 2008



Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

helping people, changing lives

**Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. and New York State Rural Development
Partner to Assist Rural Homeowners**

DUNKIRK, NY – Chautauqua Opportunities Inc. (COI) has been awarded a grant of \$82,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development. The housing preservation grant program is part of COI's Housing & Energy Conservation department and has been designed to assist low income homeowners living in the rural areas of Chautauqua County. COI will be able to assist 20 low income homeowners in correcting code violations as well as health and safety hazards. This is a 8.5% increase due to the success of last year's program.

Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. will be using this grant to target the Chadwick Bay Region of Northern Chautauqua County. The goal is to assist as many homeowners as possible in maintaining their properties and helping to reduce dangerous conditions.

Rehabilitation funding can be used towards Septic Systems, Water Wells, Roof repair and replacement, Heating Systems, Foundation and Structural repairs, Removing Lead Paint Hazards, Electrical Systems, Weatherization/Energy Techniques, as well a Handicapped Accessibility measures. To be eligible for assistance families or individuals must be homeowners, who live in rural areas of Chautauqua County with property taxes current and must meet income guidelines.

For more information on Chautauqua Opportunities' housing services and other programs, call 366-8176 in Dunkirk, 661-9430 in Jamestown, or visit their website at www.chautauquaopportunities.com.

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