

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, November 27, 2006

**Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. &
New York State Rural Development partner
to assist rural homeowners**

DUNKIRK, NY – Chautauqua Opportunities Inc. (COI) recently received a grant from the USDA New York Rural Development. The 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 14 low income homeowners in correcting code violations as well as health and safety hazards this is a 20% increase due to the success of last year's program.

COI Housing & Energy Conservation Director Mike Yerico said, "We will be using this grant to target the Chadwick Bay Region of Northern Chautauqua County. Our 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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.

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