

Contact: Jon Rucket  
Pierpont Communications  
Phone: 713-627-2223  
Cell: 857-205-3862  
[jrucket@piercom.com](mailto:jrucket@piercom.com)

**Low-Income, Single Mother to Celebrate Memorial Day Weekend  
Experiencing Dream of Home Ownership**

*--Hard-Working Houstonian Receives Keys to New Home  
in Ceremony with the Harris County Housing Authority--*

**WHEN:** Friday, May 26, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Humble, TX 77396

*Directions from downtown Houston:*

- Take Highway 59 north to Will Clayton Parkway
- Travel east on Will Clayton Parkway and go straight through the intersection at Wilson
- Just after Wilson, turn right into the first entrance of the Woodland Pines subdivision

**WHO:** Officials from Harris County & Trophy Homes — and Karlette Stewart, a low-income single mother

**WHAT:** One hard-working Houstonian will celebrate this Memorial Day weekend enjoying her long-awaited dream of home-ownership – thanks to a new program from the Harris County Housing Authority.

The program – known as Independence – provides low-income residents with down-payment assistance and other help necessary to purchase a home in established suburban communities. It is open to all recipients of Section-8 housing-assistance who have used their housing-voucher payments as a stepping stone to stable employment, sound financial savings and a solid credit rating.

Through the program, single-mother of three Karlette Stewart has been able to purchase a three-bedroom, two-bath home in the Woodland Pines development – a 263-acre private community in Humble featuring a pool, playground, park and other hallmarks of American home ownership.

Harris County officials will award Ms. Stewart the keys to her new home in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m. on Friday morning. (See address above)

The Harris County Housing Authority provided Ms. Stewart with the down payment for her new home, a portion of the closing costs and a portion of her monthly mortgage payments. Ms. Stewart, for her part will assume responsibility for most of her mortgage payments, as well as real-estate taxes and homeowner's insurance.

Ms. Stewart is one of the first people in Houston to qualify for the Independence Program, having spent ten years on Section-8 diligently reaching the milestones that would allow her to qualify for the program, including:

- Completion of general admission requirements designed to ensure that the participant can achieve financial self-sufficiency and is a first-time home buyer.
- Completion of pre-assistance homeownership counseling.
- Proof of the financial resources to pay earnest money, an independent inspection fee and an appraisal fee.

“This program is the perfect example of what housing assistance should be all about: helping low-income residents get on their feet so that they can achieve independence and enjoy the American dream,” said Guy Rankin, CEO and executive director of the Harris County Housing Authority.

“None of us can make it without help and support, and I am so proud that the Harris County Housing Authority is supporting a member of our community who wants to be in a position to give back – to her family and to her community,” said Brenda Kirk, a member of the Harris County Housing Authority’s board of commissioners.

The Harris County Housing Authority expects several more Section-8 recipients to take advantage of the program in coming months.

**About The Harris County Housing Authority**

The Harris County Housing Authority operates housing-choice voucher programs and family self-sufficiency programs for more than 4,000 residents of Harris County. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has given the Authority its highest performance rating for three years in a row. For more information visit: [www.hchatexas.org](http://www.hchatexas.org).

###