



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HERITAGE CENTERS PLANS RIBBON-CUTTING
CEREMONY FOR A NEW KIND OF RESIDENCE**

(BUFFALO, NY, August 18, 2008) – On Friday, August 22, 2008, Heritage Centers will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a special community project, a newly constructed residence in Alden, located at 11745 Broadway Street. The ceremony will be at 12:30 p.m., and public open house tours will be conducted from noon until 3:00 p.m.

This project has been “in the works” for over two years and is a result of a strong community collaboration between Heritage Centers, St. Mary’s School for the Deaf and Deaf Adult Services. This house was designed specifically for six individuals who are developmentally disabled, as well as having physical challenges and are deaf young adults. With a “T” shaped design that will give clear lines of sight and generous lighting, the design also boasts some wonderful state-of-the-art assets: doorbell-connected lights placed strategically throughout the house, visual relay service, and fire alarms that are hooked up to vibrating devices near each person’s bed pillow.

“We have received tremendous support and cooperation from our partners, St. Mary’s School for the Deaf and Deaf Adult Services,” said Michael Gross, Heritage Centers Executive Director. “We are delighted to be able to accommodate these six individuals with a wonderful living situation that really works for them. Everything in this house is designed to result in ‘total communication.’ House employees are required to know sign language and St. Mary’s staff are closely tied with us, and continue to provide our people with training. It’s a wonderful opportunity for everyone involved.”

Heritage Centers is inviting media, dignitaries, all our partners and the general public to come to the ceremony Friday at 12:30 p.m., to take a house tour and to share in our joy in the opening of this groundbreaking community achievement.

Heritage Centers is a local non-profit that employs over 900 people and serves more than 3,000 individuals with disabilities (and their families) each year. Individualized services include, but are not limited to: early intervention, education, residential, vocational, service coordination, legal and advocacy programming.

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