



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HERITAGE CENTERS PLANS RIBBON-CUTTING
CEREMONY FOR A “LABOR OF LOVE”**

(BUFFALO, NY, August 15, 2007) – On Friday, August 24, 2007, Heritage Centers will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a special community project, a newly constructed residence on Grand Island, located at 1464 Baseline Road. The ceremony will be at 11:00 a.m., and public open house tours will be conducted from noon until 3:30 p.m.

This “project,” a house for six very special children, has been a ‘labor of love’ for employees at Heritage Centers for over two years. Before the construction of this house, these six children lived at Deaconess Hospital (due to their varying and complicated medical needs). Although they were very well cared for, all partners in this endeavor agreed that a hospital should be no place for a child to call home.

Thus Heritage Centers entered into discussions to plan and develop a home-situation that would not only appeal to these children’s personal interests, but that would also cater to and be appropriate for their various mobility and medical needs.

“We have received tremendous support and cooperation from Deaconess staff and management, SKIP of NY, as well as from the entire Kaleida family,” said Michael Gross, Heritage Centers Executive Director. “We already have reports from each child’s school that since the move, they seem brighter, more alert...they are happy. Moving kids into a home to call their own is the right thing to do. Everyone involved agrees and we all share the same commitment to opening future homes like this one, so no child has to be raised in a hospital.”

Heritage Centers is inviting media, dignitaries, all our partners and the general public to the ceremony at 11:00 a.m., to take a house tour and to share in our joy in the opening of this ground-breaking 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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