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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

New Salt Lake County "Idea House" Shows How to Save Money

Kearns, Salt Lake County, Utah (8 December 2008)— Salt Lake County and Community Development Corporation of Utah will jointly host a neighborhood block party and open house Saturday, 13 December, 2008 from noon to 4 p.m. to celebrate the completion of their second Kearns *Idea House* at 4574 West 4865 South. This 1300 square foot, masonry block home with three bedrooms and two bathrooms was fully remodeled with an emphasis on improving energy efficiency for future homeowners.

Rocky Mountain Power performed a draft test on the home to determine how well it was insulated and Questar Gas Company conducted a ThermWise home-energy audit before-and-after improvements were made, and they both provided recommendations for improving the home's energy efficiency. It is estimated that the future homeowners will pay \$700 less in annual utility bills each year compared to what they would have paid if no energy efficiency improvements were made. Community Development Corporation of Utah will apply for cash back from the energy efficiency programs of both Rocky Mountain Power and Questar Gas's ThermWise program to reduce the cost of installing ENERGY STAR® windows, kitchen appliances, water heater a natural gas furnace, and insulation.

"The Idea House is an excellent model to show how homeowners can use energy more wisely and may help them reduce their costs for heating and cooling their homes, which is more and more important to all of us," said Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon. "The Idea House is also a way for us to help residents learn about the valuable Salt Lake County home improvement assistance resources, as well as energy efficiency and cash incentive programs by Rocky Mountain Power and Questar Gas ThermWise"

"We know that keeping homes affordable for families includes keeping energy costs down," said Darin Brush, Executive Director of Community Development Corporation of Utah (CDC) . A recent neighborhood survey conducted by ASSIST, Inc. and CDC indicates that homeowners are struggling with heating their homes, with some nearby homeowners reporting monthly winter heating bills over \$300. "We wanted to present a home that offers practical ways homeowners can reduce their energy costs, as well as conserve water, and accommodate disabled family members and visitors without draining all their resources."

The neighborhood block party and open house begins includes free tours of the home, hot chocolate and cookies, a visit from Santa Claus, and an opportunity to apply for home improvement assistance programs. Gratis copies of an Idea Book that highlights remodeling best practices will be available, too. After the celebration, Community Development Corporation of Utah will sell the Idea House to a qualified low income family, for whom some financial assistance will be available.

Community Development Corporation of Utah (cdcutah.org) is a Utah non-profit corporation founded in 1990 with the mission to develop affordable homeownership opportunities in order to promote strong families and stable neighborhoods. To date, CDC has helped more than 2000 families in more than 125 Utah communities to become homeowners. Programs offered by CDC include housing construction and rehabilitation, homebuyer education and counseling, foreclosure mitigation help, and down payment assistance.

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