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## “Need for Affordability Project Warehouse Continues to Grow”

*CDC Success Story, April 2009*

Nearly eight years ago, Community Development Corporation of Utah (CDC), a non-profit, full-service affordable homeownership agency, opened the doors to the Affordability Project Warehouse in an effort to increase its ability to serve the public. Today this unique and vital community-based warehouse is indeed filling an important role in the community by helping to keep the costs of CDC affordable housing projects down, assisting low-income families with necessary home repairs, and providing building materials to assist other non-profit organizations.

Initially, the purchase of the warehouse was made possible by a Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as well as additional financial backing from KeyBank. Since then, improvements to the warehouse have been made possible by grants from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation and more recently by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Foundation.

The warehouse receives donations of quality home materials including, but not limited to, cabinets, doors, appliances, lumber, interior and exterior lights, caulking, and painting supplies. Donations come from building supply companies, homeowners, and contractors, and are put to use in CDC’s new construction and rehabilitation projects. Lowe’s Home Improvement Warehouse and The Home Depot have been particularly valuable partners who have donated thousands of dollars worth of materials that have helped to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of families in many of Utah’s communities. Additionally, this community-based warehouse periodically holds public sales to reduce inventory that is not used in CDC projects. What is more, by taking in these materials and incorporating them in CDC projects or selling them at a fraction of retail, CDC has been able to divert many tons of materials from the landfills every year.



One successful partnership CDC has developed is with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Foundation and its Inner City Project. The Foundation generously granted \$50,000 to help with warehouse maintenance and more specifically for purchasing materials for needful families throughout the Salt Lake Valley who otherwise would not be able to afford having essential repairs done. Through this program, people in need are referred by inner city missionaries or local church leaders to CDC where they then submit an application for assistance. If they are

eligible, CDC supplies the materials and whenever possible the work is done by friends, family, or church volunteers in an effort to eliminate extra costs. Examples include supplying materials to build wheelchair accessible ramps, replacing damaged doors, repairing rain gutters, replacing water damaged flooring, and much more.

Another way this program has helped is by supplying appliances to low-income families. Stephen Naylor, a local church leader, has several low-income families that he serves. Among these are refugees that have located here looking for a better life. One of the many of these families he has helped through the Inner City Project and the Affordability Project Warehouse is a single mother with six children who came here from Somalia. “We were able to purchase a washer and dryer for them and when we delivered the appliances she put her hands in the air and danced around in great joy singing in her native language,” said Bishop Naylor. “I am not sure how she managed to clean all their clothes before, but it certainly wasn’t cost effective.” Bishop Naylor pointed out that he has been able to supply over a dozen appliances to families in need through this program and has witnessed the joy it brings to so many that would otherwise go without.

Visiting the Affordability Project Warehouse is somewhat like going on a treasure hunt; you never know what you might find, but the experience and possibility of locating a real gem make it well worth the trip. Equally important is the opportunity to meet CDC’s warehouse manager, Jay Wilder. His knowledge of the warehouse is only surpassed by his contagious personality and genuine desire to help others. Good deals and friendly help have made this a popular destination for the many who visit regularly.



Growing with each year, this community-based warehouse is more relevant than ever. With the high costs of building materials and the great need to be filled within the community for home repairs, it makes sense to check out the Affordability Project Warehouse first. The warehouse is located at 1600 South Jefferson Street (140 West) in Salt Lake City and is open to

the public the first Wednesday of each month from noon to 5:00 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to noon. To make a donation or inquire about the warehouse in general, please call (801) 487-6275. General warehouse information can also be found at [www.cdcutah.org](http://www.cdcutah.org) or by calling the main office at (801) 994-7222.

