

August 4, 2009

Dear Individuals, Families, Advocates, Organizational Staff Members and other Housing Stakeholders:

Since August 2007, Public Policy Impacts of Washington, D.C. has been working on "The Missouri Home of Your Own Housing Resource" web site. The Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities has generously sponsored this web site. We have reviewed many housing websites across other states and tried to glean out those components that provide capable assistance to persons with disabilities to find accessible and affordable housing. We want to have a user-friendly and renewable source for locating housing and housing assistance. Many of you attended regional sessions to provide able assistance in the site development through your ideas, criticism and constructive recommendations.

We are also adding a picture movie of 6 North in St. Louis, a universally designed multi-use apartment complex, where persons with disabilities and persons without disabilities are able to live together in an inclusive environment. Colleen Starkloff of the Starkloff Disability Institute was instrumental in arranging this and we are working on an additional way to verify the accessibility of residential properties across Missouri and make this available to persons needing such properties

As you may be aware, we are conducting regional afternoon and evening sessions in August through October at 24 sites with Derrick Dufresne. The meetings are to acquaint, orient and train individuals with disabilities, their families and advocates, organizational members, and other housing stakeholders in the use of the site.

For further information, please feel free to contact us by phone or e-mail.

Looking forward to your participation. There is no charge and all are welcome!

Sincerely,

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