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## High-Performance Houses Debut in Chicago

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHICAGO - In the neighborhood of South Chicago, a community in need of revitalization, Claretian Associates, a community-based, non-profit housing agency, is celebrating the construction of energy- and resource-efficient homes. On November 14 from 4-6 pm, an open house will take place at the *New Homes for South Chicago III* development at 9022 S. Buffalo Ave. Claretian Associates and the general contractor, South Chicago Workforce, have partnered with the City of Chicago Department of Housing and are leading the way in the affordable housing market to provide high-quality, sustainable homes. Steven Winter Associates, Inc. (SWA), a Connecticut-based building systems consulting firm, is working through the Department of Energy's Zero Energy Homes program (ZEH) to assist Claretian Associates in their efforts to build affordable, efficient homes incorporating solar energy systems. Working through HUD's PATH program (Partnership for Advanced Technology in Housing), SWA is also assessing the effectiveness of several advanced home features.



These single- and two-family homes feature cast-in-place concrete foundations; structural insulated panels (SIPs) with a wall R-value of 24.7 and a roof R-value of 42.5; double-pane, low-e windows; 92.5% efficient sealed-combustion gas furnaces; and energy-efficient florescent lighting. In addition, thanks to support from the City of Chicago Department of Environment and Spire Solar Chicago, the first 12 homes built will feature 1.2-kW solar electric systems providing a portion of the owners' electric needs. These homes provide an energy-efficient model for Chicago housing by reducing the overall energy needs by at least 50% compared to similar housing built to conventional standards. These proven technologies reduce the homes' energy usage and in turn reduce the costs to the homeowners in the form of lower energy bills and maintenance costs.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is providing funding for many of the resource- and energy-efficient building products so that they can be offered to buyers at low or no cost. The homes feature low-VOC primer and paints; low-flow plumbing fixtures; ceramic tile manufactured from over 55% recycled glass and ceramic materials; cork floor tile; carpet made from recycled plastics; chromium and arsenic-free treated lumber for framing and decks; and other sustainable products.

*Steven Winter Associates, Inc. is an architecture, engineering, and building systems research and consulting firm with offices in Norwalk, Connecticut; Washington, DC; and New York City. SWA specializes in energy-performance analysis, sustainable materials specification, indoor air quality, accessibility, technology transfer, and event management. Information on this and other projects is available on the SWA website: [www.swinter.com](http://www.swinter.com).*

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