

Contact: Deborah Berry-Toon
973-383-5129

April 24, 2008
FINAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Project Self-Sufficiency to Host Designer Showcase during the Month of June
Historic Home Renovated by Local Designers**

Project Self-Sufficiency has invited fifteen local interior designers to decorate separate areas of the historic Pettit home, an 1850's era house which is located on the property currently being developed by the agency for its new campus in Newton. The results of the designers' efforts will be on display during the month of June at the agency's first annual Project Show House. The public is invited to tour the historic home beginning Wednesday, June 4th. Admission is \$25 per person. In addition to the tour, various seminars and presentations will be made throughout the month, on topics ranging from landscape design to window treatments to home accessories. Vendors will be on the campus to offer related materials for sale. Meals and snack items will be available for purchase at a café operated by local restaurant, Krave Café and Caterers, during operating hours. The home will be open every week from Wednesday – Saturday, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and Sundays 12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Approximately 5,000 people are expected to tour the site. All proceeds will benefit Project Self-Sufficiency, a non-profit agency which specializes in services for low-income families.

The designers, who were selected from a large pool of applicants, were invited to tour the historic home on several occasions and then submit plans for decorating selected areas of the house. A committee selected the finalists, who have been working on the project for several months. The participating design firms include Alicia Shearer Interior Design, AMA Designs, Bailiwick Design, Designs by Lynn, Fine Design, K. Kihlstrom Antiques & Worthies, Katie's Closets, Leslie Moore Interior Decorating, Lisa Fairclough Enterprises, Sweet P.E.A's, Tracy Gibbins Interior Design, Victory Frame Shop, Wallflowers Interior Design, Whitehall Interiors and Home Staging, and Withers Living. The designers are working on a range of areas within the home, including individual rooms, hallway areas, porches and closets.

Bev Gordon, President of Project Self-Sufficiency's Board of Directors, commented on the upcoming designer showcase, "We have wanted to sponsor an event like this for many years, and this house gave us the perfect venue. It's historic, it's empty, and featuring this home gives the public the opportunity to become acquainted with Project Self-Sufficiency's new campus."

While the design show case is in session, vendors of the various home-related products and services will be on hand to offer their wares to the public. These businesses and organizations include retailers of apparel, products for skin and hair, as well as vendors of crafts and home furnishings.

Patrons who stop by to tour the historic house are encouraged to take advantage of the educational seminars available on site. A host of local experts will be presenting educational seminars centering on creating the perfect home, including lectures on landscape design, floral arranging, framing, selecting appropriate colors and patterns for your home, and other topics.

Project Self-Sufficiency is currently in the final stages of constructing a state-of-the-art campus on 5.4 acres of property at 127 Mill Street, across from the Sussex County Community College in Newton, where the designer show case is located. Funding for the new \$10 million campus was raised through a capital campaign during 2007 which garnered contributions from more than 800 businesses, organizations and individuals in Sussex County. The 32,000 square foot facility will include a Day Care Center, a Community Education Center, a Career Training and Employment Center and a Family Counseling Center. The historic Pettit home which is being featured in the design showcase will eventually house the agency's Family Literacy Center.

With the influx of 5,000 visitors, the agency hopes to raise \$250,000 from Project Show House to allocate among its existing programs and services. Since the Pettit home will be used for the agency's Literacy Center, Project Self-Sufficiency plans to replicate the design showcase at other area homes as a fundraising event in the future.

Project Self-Sufficiency is the only organization in the area whose mission is to provide the services necessary for single parents, teen parents, displaced homemakers and two-parent families to improve the quality of their lives, and those of their children, by attaining economic self-sufficiency and family stability. Since 1986, over 16,000 low-income individuals have participated in one or more of the programs offered by the organization. Project Self-Sufficiency offers a supportive family-centered environment where life issues are addressed through a combination of individual counseling, peer support groups, case management services, parenting skills training, life skills management training, home visits, childcare and early childhood education, family activities and health education.

For tickets to Project Show House, or to find out more about the programs and services available at Project Self-Sufficiency, call 973-383-5129, or email the agency at PSS@garden.net.