



## Community Lodgings, Inc.

*“Opening Doors to Independence Since 1987”*

### **Commonwealth Awards Financial Support to Community Lodgings’ Learning Center**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALEXANDRIA, VA / Oct. 1, 2008 – Community Lodgings is proud to announce that it has received a coveted three-year grant of \$325,980 from the Virginia Department of Education’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program. The commonwealth’s program is designed to support academic enrichment opportunities during non-school hours for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The grant, made possible with funds from the No Child Left Behind Act, will be used by Community Lodgings to support an after-school program for disadvantaged George Washington Middle School students and their parents. The after-school program will be held at the organization’s education facility, the Fifer Family Learning Center, which provides essential resources for the entire community.

“This grant makes a remarkable difference in Community Lodgings’ ability to continue the quality programs we have established,” says Executive Director Bonnie Baxley. “Our staff and volunteers have worked diligently to provide each student the support needed to succeed. Now, with these funds, staff and volunteers will have the support they need.”

In 2002, Community Lodgings introduced the Youth Education Program to counter gang influence and raise local families from poverty. The vital service has three objectives: to improve student scores in core academic curriculum; to decrease at-risk behavior in the community; and to provide educational courses and workshops for parents and family members of participating students.

#### **About Community Lodgings:**

Founded in 1987, Community Lodgings’ mission is to lift families from homelessness and instability to independence and self-sufficiency through our Transitional and Affordable Housing Programs, and Youth and Adult Education Programs held at the Fifer Family Learning Center. Over 250 lives are touched per week by Community Lodgings’ services which include – but are not limited to – subsidized housing, intensive counseling, education workshops, and emergency support. For more information please visit [www.communitylodgings.org](http://www.communitylodgings.org).

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