

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
September 17, 2009

Contact: Mike Burnette, Housing Opportunities Made Equal
804.354.0641 ext. 118, mike@phonehome.org

Free HOME Preservation Clinics **for Richmond Residents who are behind on their mortgages**

The City of Richmond and Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME) have partnered to provide the residents of the City of Richmond with FREE 30 minute appointments for foreclosure prevention assistance where homeowners can meet with certified housing counselors to find out what their options are for avoiding foreclosure.

These free clinics will be held for one day only on **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**, from 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. at four locations reflecting some of the hardest hit areas for foreclosure in the City.

Blackwell Community Center 300 E 15th St. ♦ Fifth Street Baptist - 2800 Third Ave.
Mt. Tabor Baptist - 2011 Fairmount Ave. ♦ Trinity Baptist - 2811 Fendall Ave.

THESE CLINICS ARE BY APPOINTMENT . You can reserve a 30 minute time slot at any of these locations by calling HOME at 354.0641 during the hours of 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. Walk-ins will only be accepted if all appointment times have not been filled.

The clinic is free to all borrowers, regardless of lender.

Additional information is available on HOME's website at www.phonehome.org. If you cannot attend that day, valuable self-help foreclosure prevention material can also be found at this website.

The Richmond Association of REALTORS® and Wachovia are both sponsoring this event.

Laura Lafayette, CEO, Richmond Association of REALTORS® said, "The loss of a home is traumatic for all the inhabitants--parents and children. RAR and its partners want to minimize the destabilizing and traumatic effects of foreclosure, and REALTORS® want to play a role in preventing unnecessary foreclosures whenever that is possible."

"If you are a homeowner experiencing financial difficulty, a crucial first step is to talk to a housing counselor to find out what steps you can take to get back on track," said Tim Butturini, Wachovia regional president for Greater Virginia. "Wachovia is proud to support this effort to connect distressed borrowers with free, qualified advice from professional mortgage counselors."

About Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia:

Housing Opportunities Made Equal of Virginia, Inc. (HOME) was founded in 1971 to ensure equal access to housing for all people. In addition to helping homeowners avoid foreclosure for more than two decades, HOME also prepares prospective buyers to be successful, long-term homeowners and helps protect all Virginians from illegal housing discrimination. For more information on HOME and its programs, visit www.phoneHOME.org or call (804) 354-0641.

Media Note: Fifth Street Baptist at 2800 Third Ave. will be the staging area for media interviews with representatives as needed. During the day, you may call Mike Burnette with HOME on site via cell 869.1848.