



**NEWS RELEASE
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Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team named a Champion in Action®

Charter One Bank and WXYZ-TV 7 provide \$25,000 grant, volunteer and promotional support in recognition of excellence in temporary/transitional housing

DETROIT – Charter One and WXYZ-TV 7 have named the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team (MCREST) as the 2009 Champions in Action® winner in Michigan in the area of housing. As the beneficiary of this award, MCREST will receive a \$25,000 grant, public relations and volunteer support.

The *Champions in Action* program was launched in November 2005 by Charter One and WXYZ-TV 7 to recognize and support nonprofit organizations that champion change in our communities and work to address the needs of southeast Michigan.

The Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team partners with an extensive network of churches of all denominations throughout Macomb County to provide shelter to those in the community who are homeless. Each week, MCREST coordinates with a different church that will open its doors to provide food and a place to sleep for men, women and, in some cases, children. Additionally, MCREST provides bedding and program support to participants.

MCREST began in 1988 with just one volunteer and a network of 12 churches. Today MCREST has nine employees and thousands of volunteers who work with more than 80 churches to provide temporary housing for a 30-day period to nearly 1,000 people year-round. To address the need for additional shelter, MCREST created the program "Choose a Path" that allows participants to stay an additional 90 days while receiving intensive case management support.

"The Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team underscores how problem-solving and collaboration can make such a difference in people's lives," said Sandra Pierce, President, Charter One, Michigan. "In addition to much-needed shelter, program participants receive extensive support from case managers to access available resources and return to self-sufficiency."

"WXYZ-TV 7 is proud to partner with Charter One to recognize the important contributions of the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team," said Bob Sliva, Vice President and General Manager, WXYZ-TV 7. "We congratulate the organization and look forward to working with MCREST to help raise awareness and advance its mission."

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As the 2009 second quarter *Champion in Action*, MCREST will receive:

- A \$25,000 grant in unrestricted funds from the Charter One Foundation.
- Media coverage from WXYZ-TV 7, including public service announcements.
- Volunteer support from Charter One colleagues.
- Promotional support in all Charter One branches and ATMs throughout Michigan.
- Exposure on both Charter One's and WXYZ-TV 7's Web sites.

"We are proud to be chosen as a Champion in Action. It is a privilege to have our program and our church partners recognized for the positive impact we have within our community," said Jimetta Lewis, Executive Director of the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team.

Community leaders and representatives of WXYZ-TV 7 and Charter One comprise a committee which selects a *Champion in Action* each quarter for its work on a particular social concern. 2009 categories include: Youth Programming, Housing, Financial Literacy and Environmental Impact.

For more information about the *Champions in Action* program, nonprofit organizations can visit the Charter One Web site at charterone.com/community. The Web site includes a program overview, application and detailed information on how to become a Champion.

About Charter One

Charter One is a division of RBS Citizens, N.A., operating in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. It has approximately 400 branches and 660 ATMs. It has 119 branches and 135 ATMs in Michigan. Charter One's Web site is charterone.com.

RBS Citizens, N.A. is a subsidiary of Citizens Financial Group, Inc., a \$160 billion commercial bank holding company headquartered in Providence, R.I. CFG's two bank subsidiaries are RBS Citizens, N.A. and Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania. They operate a 12-state branch network under the Citizens Bank brand in Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont, and the Charter One brand in Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. CFG has non-branch retail and commercial offices in about 40 states. It is one of the 10 largest commercial banking companies in the United States ranked by assets. CFG is owned by RBS (The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc). CFG's Web site is citizensbank.com.

Information on Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team

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www.mcrest.org

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