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CHAUTAUQUA OPPORTUNITIES, INC.

A COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. Begins Renovation for New Transitional Youth Residential Facility in Dunkirk

—Project Funded by \$255,000 Grant from NRG Energy, Inc.—

PRINCETON, NJ; December 17, 2008—Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. (COI) today kicks off the complete renovation of an existing apartment building into a new Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP) facility in Dunkirk, New York. This project, which is being funded by a \$255,000 grant from NRG Energy, Inc. (NYSE: NRG), will expand the TILP program into the northern part of Chautauqua County to provide additional housing and life supports for youth transitioning to independent living: filling a long-standing community need. The upgrades at the facility are expected to be completed by June 2009.

“What a wonderful gift Chautauqua Opportunities is giving the Dunkirk community,” said John Ragan, President of NRG’s Northeast Region. “NRG’s mission is to help improve our communities and the lives of our youth, and we are delighted to lend a hand to build this much-needed facility for the youth of Dunkirk, who might otherwise find themselves homeless.”

Since 1999, COI has been providing similar services for youth at the south end of the county. While in the TILP program, youth are given a sense of personal safety, a structured environment and the opportunity to gain self-worth based on achievement and character, support and guidance from adults, increased opportunities for positive use of time, and a sense of belonging. The staff also ensures that the youth are either enrolled in school or employed, and that they remain connected to the community.

“What a heartfelt moment this is for us and for everyone that dedicates their time and efforts to our organization,” said Roberta Keller, Executive Director of Chautauqua Opportunities. “We are truly grateful to NRG for its support—it is because of their generous donation that we can fully renovate this facility and give these youth a new, safe place to live, while they work on their personal development and leadership skills.”

COI’s TILP program in Dunkirk will feature full-service, furnished apartments where youths, ages 16 to 21, can live for up to 18 months while they develop increased self sufficiency skills. Once the renovation is complete, the facility will have the capacity to accommodate up to 8 youths.

Chautauqua Opportunities’ TILP is one project currently being funded through NRG’s Global Giving initiative. NRG has donated millions of dollars to non-profit organizations that address vital community needs through targeted and sustainable service programs consistent with the Company’s four focus areas: community and economic development, education, environment and human welfare.

Central Administrative Offices

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About Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.

Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. (COI) is a private, not-for-profit, community-based organization incorporated in 1965 as part of a network of 1100 Community Action Agencies formed to implement the initiatives of President Johnson's War on Poverty. Since that time, COI has evolved in response to local needs and conditions and now has a number of designations and licenses related to specific services. COI is a grassroots agency both governed by and serving the people of Chautauqua County. Its eighteen member Board of Directors is drawn from the community it serves and is made up in equal parts of representatives of the private sector, public sector, and low-income community.

About NRG

NRG Energy, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, owns and operates one of the country's largest and most diverse power generation portfolios. NRG's 48 plants provide approximately 24,000 megawatts of generation capacity—enough to power nearly 20 million homes. In November 2007, NRG won two of the industry's highest honors—Platts Industry Leadership and Energy Company of the Year awards. Headquartered in Princeton, NJ, NRG is a member of the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a group of business and environmental organizations calling for mandatory legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. More information is available at www.nrgenergy.com.

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