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For Immediate Release

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Beyond Housing Invites the Community to Listening Sessions for the 24:1 Initiative

Beginning Monday, November 1, 2010, Beyond Housing will conduct a series of community-wide Listening Sessions aimed at engaging the residents and other stakeholders within the Normandy School District area in conversation about the collective vision for progress that will be achieved through the 24:1 Initiative. The meetings are scheduled throughout the district footprint to make it convenient for residents to attend.

Current World Record Holder and Four-Time Olympian Jackie Joyner Kersee, Dr Benjamin Ola. Akande, Dean of the George Herbert Walker School of Business and Technology and over 150 volunteers distributed door hangers announcing the 24:1 Initiative and the Listening Sessions on October 23, 2010 to approximately 15,000 homes within the 24 municipalities and unincorporated areas served by Normandy School District.

The 24:1 Initiative stands for **24 communities with one vision: *Strong Communities, Engaged Families and Successful Children***

It is a comprehensive community development model, led by Beyond Housing in partnership with the 24 municipalities that comprise Normandy School District, which will enable the success of all families and children living within the Normandy School District area. Its overarching goals are to:

- ✓ Create an environment where diverse groups of people work together for sustainable community transformation.
- ✓ Create a cradle-through-college-to-career continuum of programs and services that improve local educational outcomes.
- ✓ Create a healthier community by addressing disparities, improving access and increasing preventive efforts.
- ✓ Promote unified efforts that improve housing, attract more economic development and emphasize asset building, both for individuals and the communities.

“It is vitally important that the community’s voice be heard and that any plan for progress come from within the community with support from Beyond Housing in collaboration with other organizations serving the area”, says Chris Krehmeyer, President/CEO of Beyond Housing. Krehmeyer continues, “The 24:1 Initiative will be informed by what residents and stakeholders want for their families and neighborhoods”. Beyond Housing has received a \$3,000,000 grant from a local foundation to staff the 24:1 Initiative in the focus areas of education, housing & economic development, health & wellness, asset building, community engagement and marketing & fundraising.

The dates, times and locations for the Listening Sessions are as follows:

Mon., Nov 1, 2010 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
MET Center 6347 Plymouth Ave. Wellston, MO
Follow-up Meeting - Mon., Jan. 31, 2011

Wed. Nov. 3, 2010 – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
St. Louis County Indian Trails Library 8400 Delport Vinita Park, MO 63114
Follow-up Meeting – Wed., Feb. 9, 2011

Thurs., Nov. 4, 2010 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Lucas Crossing Elementary School 7837 Natural Bridge Normandy, MO 63121
Follow-up Meeting - Thurs., Feb. 10, 2011

Sat., Nov. 6, 2010 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Pine Lawn Community Center 6243 Natural Bridge Pine Lawn, MO 63121
Follow-up Meeting – Sat. Feb. 5, 2011

ABOUT BEYOND HOUSING

Beyond Housing's mission is to strengthen neighborhoods, one family at a time. We do this by providing support services to families, children and seniors; being a catalyst for community-wide rebuilding efforts; empowering residents to be leaders of their own neighborhood revitalization efforts; and promoting individual and community asset building.

Beyond Housing is located at 4156 Manchester Ave, St. Louis. The phone number is 314-533-0600. For more information, access www.beyondhousing.org



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