

Comments from Richard Stiles, President
Neighborhood Housing Services of Asheville
2007 Doors of Asheville
November 29, 2007

Good evening. And I thank you now in anticipation of your generous bids in just a few minutes. My name is Richard Stiles, president of the Neighborhood Housing Services of Asheville.

NHS kicked off the Doors auction four years ago and so this evening is somewhat of a revolving door moment for many of us.

Up until a few months ago, NHS had been opening affordable home-ownership doors in Asheville and Buncombe County since 1988. The perfect storm of rising property prices and construction costs severely impacted our ability to provide outreach services and to construct eight to 12 affordable homes a year. Fortunately, MHO's business model has prospered. We applaud them and have mutually agreed to transfer this event, the [downpayment] loan program and our relationship with NeighborWorks of America to Mountain Housing Opportunities.

As we close one door, NHS wants to assure you of our continued financial and organizational commitment to solving the affordable home-ownership dilemma in our communities.

In closing, I'd like to thank the NHS board and executive committee: D Smith, vice president; Betsy Reiser, secretary; and Harry Weiss, treasurer. And, not to forget Hedy Fisher for nurturing the magic of this Doors event.

Now, please join me in a toast to NHS and MHO.