

For immediate release  
Kathie S. Davis, PAH  
Home Stretch Coordinator  
507-345-3029

At times it is difficult to tell which comes first, the chicken or the egg, or in this case the two situations might be, affordable housing or economic growth of a community. To assist a community in being able to respond in regards to affordable housing, PAH Home Stretch is searching for a company that wants to work with them to provide home buyer education for its employees. In doing this the company will be helping their employees become committed to being home owners. For more details the company owners or human resource staff should call 507-345-3029 for further details.

PAH home buyer education is offered now in five communities. North Mankato classes are the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 5:30- 9:30. Area housing professionals provide expertise on behalf of their peers in the areas of budgeting, fiscal management, lending, home inspection, working with a realtor, should you build or buy an existing home, floor care for increasing the value of your home, understanding an appraisal and your home value compared to some other building, and what occurs at the closing. Other classes are scheduled from time to time in Blue Earth, Fairmont, New Ulm, St. Peter, and at Minnesota State university-Mankato or at South Central College.

Advance registration is needed. PAH Home Stretch has worked for several years with the Home Ownership Center in St. Paul to deliver the statewide program to South Central Minnesota. To check the web site for the classes meeting the buyers schedule go to [www.hocmn.org](http://www.hocmn.org)

In June home buyer education classes are set for June 8 and 15 at Fairmont City Hall from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Then on June 22 and 29 will be the first afternoon sessions scheduled at Minnesota State University-Mankato from 1-4 p.m. The monthly classes in North Mankato will again be held from 5:30-9:30 p.m on June 21 and 28 at the Police Annex. All classes require advance registration by calling 507-345-3029 to reach the PAH Home Stretch coordinator. A minimum of four households is needed for the classes.

Persons need to participate in both sessions to achieve a certificate which is helpful with some lending programs and they become more in tune with the entire home buying process. Area housing professionals volunteer to teach the classes after they themselves have been through the classes.

There is a nominal fee for the classes as it pays for the resource book attendees keep. In Minnesota Home Stretch providers use the Home Ownership curriculum to help potential owners understand budgeting for a home, the various steps in the home buying process and learning about home maintenance once they become home owners.