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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HAE's Healthy Living Fair/Smoke Free Housing Kick Off at Central Park Tower Apartments, Wednesday, March 19, 2013

Elgin, IL March 13, 2013- In an effort to protect non-smokers from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, the Housing Authority of Elgin's Board of Commissioners have adopted a smoke-free policy at its Central Park Tower Apartments (CPT) located at 120 S. State Street, Elgin, IL. Effective March 1, 2014, smoking is not allowed inside residential units, common areas, offices and 15 feet from all main entryways. HAE joins other cities across the nation, including Seattle, Lake Forest, Chicago, Boston, San Antonio, and Detroit, among others, that have recognized the dangers of secondhand smoke and its impact on the health of children, seniors, and others at risk for chronic health conditions.

Next Wednesday, March 19, 2014, HAE will host a Press Conference and "Healthy Living/Smoke Free Housing Kick-Off" event. HAE will be joined by community partners in providing valuable information and services to residents that will inform them of various community resources. Partners include: Kane County Health Department, Presence Saint Joseph Hospital, American Heart Association, Greater Elgin Family Care Center, Walgreen's Pharmacy, Jamba Juice, Senior Services and Judson University. The Greater Elgin Family Care Center will provide on-site blood pressure and diabetes screenings. Representatives from Illinois State Senator Michael Noland's office, District 22 and Sean Stegall, City Manager for the City of Elgin will both give brief remarks. The event is FREE of charge to all residents of HAE.

"I congratulate the Housing Authority of Elgin for stepping up to protect the residents, visitors, and employees of its Central Park Tower Apartments," said Barbara Jeffers, Executive Director of the Kane County Health Department. "Reducing tobacco use is one of the key components of the Community Health Improvement Plan in Kane County. We applaud this effort to protect the health of residents."

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) strongly encourages all housing authorities to implement a smoke-free policy at their properties. HUD cites the adverse health effects associated with smoking and secondhand smoke as the reason to adopt a smoke-free policy. Nationwide, more than 250 public housing



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authorities have gone smoke-free. In February 2014, the HAE Board of Commissioners approved a smoke-free policy at the Central Park Tower Apartments.

“We believe that providing a smoke-free living environment for our residents is a major step in improving the health and well-being of our residents and will help HAE fulfill its mission of providing safe, quality housing,” said Housing Authority of Elgin CEO, Damon E. Duncan. **“The smoke-free policy is not an attack on our senior residents or smokers but rather an effort to protect non-smokers including children, elderly, disabled and people with chronic and respiratory illnesses. Also, we want to protect our employees such as the managers and maintenance staff who have to regularly go inside the units and may encounter first, second and third hand smoke.”**

“Our Healthy Living Fair/Smoke Free Kick Off” focuses on improving the health and decreasing chronic diseases of our elderly residents through the promotion of community resources, implementation of policies and systems changes. **Ultimately, the goal is to make the easy choice, the healthy choice”,** says Monica Smith.

The event will include a Press Conference beginning at 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The Fair will begin at 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Central Park Tower Apartments Community Room, 120 S. State Street. Elgin, IL 60123. Light refreshments will be served. For additional information about HAE's Healthy Living Fair/Smoke-free Housing event or to register, please contact Monica Smith, Chief Officer of Government, Community and External Affairs at 847-608-4404 or msmith@haelgin.org.

About HAE:

The Housing Authority of Elgin provides affordable homes and services to more than 5,000 low and moderate-income families, including over 1,100 families housed through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. More information about the Housing Authority of Elgin can be found at www.haelgin.org.

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