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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHFA Head Hudson and Pitt's Cunningham Honored at Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation's "Catalyst" Luncheon

PITTSBURGH, PA— The dictionary defines "catalyst" as a person who "causes an important change to take place." The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation (BGC) will recognize two community catalysts – Brian A. Hudson Sr., of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), and James V. Cunningham, of the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work – at its annual luncheon on Friday, November 7, 2008, at the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, 4215 Fifth Avenue, Oakland, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Six years ago, a million-dollar commitment from Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency launched the Garfield Homeownership Choice development, and helped to leverage other private and public financing. The result has been the construction to date of 31 single-family homes in Garfield, now occupied by new home owners. Thanks to agencies like PHFA, older urban neighborhoods don't have to be written off or declared disaster areas. The BGC will recognize the work of Brian A. Hudson Sr., PHFA's executive director and CEO, who will deliver a keynote address at the luncheon.

At the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work in the mid-1960s, Jim Cunningham helped to create a master's degree program that has since trained many of the area's community organizers. With numerous academic and neighborhood partners, Professor Cunningham helped build the Pittsburgh area's neighborhood movement, with its hundreds of diverse formal and informal groups and organizations. For his lifetime commitment to creating community change, the BGC will present him with a special award at the luncheon.

The Nov. 7 event includes a cash bar, piano music by John Hughes, a three-course luncheon, and a program emceed by P.J. Maloney of KQV Radio. Individual tickets are \$55 and are available by calling 412-441-6950 x 15.

Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation has been changing lives and neighborhoods since 1976, working to improve the overall physical, social, and economic conditions of Garfield, Friendship, and Bloomfield.

The "Catalyst" luncheon has been made possible through the generous support of the following sponsors: Citizens Bank; Dollar Bank; National City Bank; PNC Bank; Allegheny Valley Bank; Fifth Third Bank; First Commonwealth Bank; Steve Catranel Construction Co. Inc.; and the Western Pennsylvania Hospital.