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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## COUNTY LEADERS UNITE TO PROVIDE 'HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS'

### *Campaign takes aim at rapid foreclosure rate increase*

GENEVA – Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay joined members of the County Board, housing service agency representatives and municipal leaders Thursday in launching “Help for Homeowners,” a comprehensive public information campaign aimed at highlighting the many resources available to assist homeowners during difficult economic times.

Approved unanimously by the County Board, the initiative highlights everything from emergency repair assistance and property tax exemptions, to property tax freeze options and foreclosure prevention counseling. The effort comes as Kane County has seen a rapid rise in its foreclosure rate, which increased by 42 percent between 2006 and 2007 – faster than in any part of the Chicagoland metro area.

“More and more Kane County families are finding it difficult to make ends meet, and a record number are facing the very real possibility of losing the homes they have worked so hard to obtain,” McConnaughay said. “That is catastrophic not only for those homeowners, but our entire community – and we need to work together to stop the trend.”

“Help for Homeowners” brings together County and municipal leaders to highlight government and not-for-profit services already available to homeowners. Paid for with Riverboat Grant funds, the campaign will proceed at no cost to county taxpayers. Initiative specifics include:

- Direct mailings to County homeowners facing foreclosure
- An informational brochure highlighting homeowner services, which will be made available at government buildings, libraries and other community meeting places
- Presentations at municipal and civic meetings throughout the County
- Free homeowner clinics up and down the Fox Valley, including four already-scheduled workshops in Dundee (July 12), Tri-Cities (Sept. 6), Elgin (Sept. 20) and Aurora (Oct. 18)
- Online “Help for Homeowners” information, which is available at [www.countyofkane.org](http://www.countyofkane.org)

“Many of our residents are struggling right now and it is important that all levels of government and our community organizations work together to assist wherever possible,” Geneva Mayor Kevin Burns said. “Ultimately, this collaboration will not only assist individual constituents, but strengthen our communities as a whole.”

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