



**ANNIVERSARY** - The St. Lawrence County Housing Council, Inc. celebrated the tenth anniversary of its acceptance as a Charter Member of the Neighborworks® Network, a national nonprofit organization created by Congress to provide financial support, technical assistance, and training for community-based revitalization

efforts, on Sept. 16. Employees of the Housing Council, seated from L to R are : Greg Thompson, Kristen Thompson, Joe DeMart, Jennifer Ashley, Rebecca Geidel. Standing: Makenzie Taylor, Jackie Todd, Annette Matthews, Marie Schneller, Jennifer Berbrich, Dave Weissbard.

## 10th Anniversary Of Neighborworks Housing Council Celebrates

**CANTON** - The St. Lawrence County Housing Council, Inc. celebrated the tenth anniversary of its acceptance as a Charter Member of the Neighborworks® Network, a national nonprofit organization created by Congress to provide financial support, technical assistance, and training for community-based revitalization efforts, on Sept. 16.

The Neighborworks® network includes more than 230 organizations like the Housing Council in 50 states creating healthy communities through the work of thousands of residents, business people, government officials and other partners. The Housing Council has recently been designated an "Exemplary Member" of the network.

The Housing Council was

organized in 1981 by a group of local clergy and business people to help residents of St. Lawrence County get access to decent and affordable housing in vital and vibrant communities. The 13 member staff working out of its Canton office focuses on four areas: helping first-time homeowners purchase properties; providing financial assistance and guidance for the renovation of sub-standard residences; managing rental properties designated for persons with special needs or limited incomes; assisting communities with planning, and obtaining grants for downtown revitalization and infrastructure improvements. Membership in the Neighborworks® Network has enhanced the ability of the Housing Council to serve the

residents of St. Lawrence County.

During its more than a quarter century of service, the Housing Council has brought or administered \$45 million in grants in the county, many of which have been supplemented by local contributions. The Council has helped more than 625 families with low and moderate incomes to purchase their first homes; it has assisted more than 1200 homeowners with limited resources to address home rehabilitation needs, it manages 200 apartments; it has written and/or administered grants for almost 30 community development projects such as parks, fire houses and equipment, community centers and sewage systems for county municipalities and not-for-profit organizations.

The Council experienced a change of leadership this year when former Executive Director Chris Rediehs left to become Commissioner of Social Services for the county. Joe DeMart was hired in April, after a nationwide search process, to be the new Executive Director.

Because "St. Lawrence County" is included in its name, many people assume that the Housing Council is a part of the county government. It is not. While it does receive some financial support from Neighborworks® and from administrative fees, the Council's work benefits from donations from local businesses and individuals who support its vision.

More information on the Housing Council is available on its website: [www.slchc.org](http://www.slchc.org).