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PITTSBURGH, PA – October 24, 2013 – East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM) has a new home on Penn Circle North in East Liberty – Community House – where the 40-year-old organization will, for the first time, serve the hungry, homeless, and at-risk youth of our community from under one roof.

“This is truly an amazing moment for this organization and this neighborhood. We’ve been working toward this day for more than 10 years, and finally, we can say that EECM has its own home!,” says Rita Pollock, President, EECM Board of Directors.

Since 1970, EECM has been operating programs in hunger, housing, and youth services out of scattered facilities, most borrowed from local congregations. Over the years, EECM has outgrown these borrowed facilities, often putting off new initiatives simply for the lack of space or equipment.

Community House will not only consolidate most EECM programs in one building, it will expand the organization’s ability to serve more individuals and families in our neighborhoods in so many ways. EECM will be able to keep the Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry open for more extended hours, provide around-the-clock personal care to all of the homeless residents, provide educational programs for community members of all ages, and provide a new space to bring together everyone in these East End neighborhoods – from those who need the most to those who can give the most. Construction will be finished in October 2013, and each program will transition to the new space through the end of the year.

“We’re increasing capacity and increasing impact. We’ll have our own space and the ability to operate our programs in the best way we know how and make a real difference in these struggling communities,” says Myrna Zelenitz, EECM Executive Director.

To celebrate this new chapter in the organization’s history, EECM will hold two invitation-only events in October 2013 – one a celebration for supporters and community leaders, the other a ceremony of commissioning and blessing of the building and shared ministry. In 2014, EECM will hold open-house events including the 30th Annual Martin Luther King Celebration in partnership with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, the 8th Annual *A Flavor of the East End* fundraiser, and a community picnic.

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About East End Cooperative Ministry

EECM is a non-profit, interfaith, 501(c)(3) organization. Since 1970, EECM has provided services to the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, and the at-risk children and youth living in Pittsburgh’s economically distressed East End neighborhoods. EECM services include, but are not limited to: Meals on Wheels; Food Pantry; Soup Kitchen; Men’s Emergency Shelter; transitional housing and support programs; William and Mildred Orr non-medical respite care center; tutoring; mentoring; prevention and intervention programs, in-school and after-school programs. For more information: contact EECM at 412.361.5549, ext. 422, email carrieh@eecm.org or visit www.eecm.org.