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*For Immediate Release*

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### **Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County, Inc. Helps Family Accomplish Dream of Homeownership**

West Palm Beach, Florida- On December 3, 2008, first-time homebuyer Brunhilde L. Watson purchased the 1st home being sold by the Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County, Inc (CLT of PBC). The CLT of PBC worked with another local non-profit, Life Improvement for Tomorrow (LIFT), and Palm Beach County in providing the client with down payment assistance and with Bank Atlantic in obtaining her mortgage.



Brunhilde Watson is a self-employed single mother caring for her 12 year old daughter, Melanie (see right insert). Ms. Watson had been renting for over 20 years and was tired of constantly relocating with her daughter. Having all family members in Germany and none in the United States, she consulted a friend who gave her the number to LIFT. It was that one phone call she made that started the journey to homeownership. LIFT immediately contacted the CLT of PBC once they realized Ms. Watson needed more than down payment assistance to purchase a home.

It was after attending a Community Land Trust Orientation held by CLT of PBC Staff that Ms. Watson realized how close she was to accomplishing her goal. The CLT of PBC assisted her with obtaining a mortgage and provided additional subsidy needed to get her and her daughter into a brand new 3 bedroom, 2 bath, and one car garage home (see left insert). Ms. Watson and her daughter are grateful to the outstanding services received during this process and are thankful for the Community Land Trust model of homeownership. "If it wasn't for the wonderful friends I've recently encountered during this journey, becoming a homeowner would not have been possible. Now I have something to leave behind for my daughter," said Ms. Watson. She encourages others to follow the same footsteps of accomplishing the goal of homeownership.



The CLT of PBC is a non-profit housing provider founded by Palm Beach County in 2006. The Community Land Trust sells the home only to homebuyers and retains ownership of the underlying land. This model of homeownership creates a bridge for families to reach their goal of becoming a homeowner by removing the cost of the land from the purchase price of the house. A share of the appreciation also stays with the home if resold thereby ensuring it remains affordable to the next homebuyer.

For additional information about the Community Land Trust of Palm Beach County, Inc., please contact Lisa Delhomme, Homebuyer Coordinator at (561) 233-3683 or via E-mail at LDelhomme@pbcgov.com.