

Press Contact:
Andy Morris & Company
Jocelyn Weiss
(212) 561-7464
jocelyn@amc-pr.com

**THE ABYSSINIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNOUNCES
THEY HAVE EXPANDED AND RELOCATED THEIR MAIN
OPERATIONS TO 4-14 WEST 125th STREET IN HARLEM**

**SPACIOUS NEW QUARTERS SIGNAL EXPANSION AND MAJOR
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN THE HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD**

New York, NY—September 13, 2004— The Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC) a leading not-for-profit community development corporation dedicated to building the human, social, and physical capital in Harlem, announced today that they have expanded and relocated their main operations to 4 -14 West 125th Street in Harlem. ADC will maintain their satellite offices providing programmatic services in Civic Engagement and Family Services. Their Tier Two Shelter, Abyssinian House and the Annie G. Newsome Headstart will continue to reside on 138th Street.

To execute its mission, ADC has leveraged more than \$250 million of investments in the Harlem community and now has 70 employees and a consolidated budget of nearly \$7 million. ADC is currently focusing a portion of its upcoming housing development activities in a three-block radius that they have defined as “The Abyssinian Neighborhood.” Their goal is to create a balanced and sustainable Central Harlem by undertaking the rehabilitation and preservation of 300 units of housing as well as the addition of new commercial and community facilities, all of which will positively affect the landscape of the Neighborhood.

“Although we have moved our offices, our mission remains the same,” said Sheena Wright, President and CEO of the Abyssinian Development Corporation. “This move represents a signature moment in our evolution as we expand our development initiatives in our Harlem neighborhood. “

This past February, ADC completed the Thurgood Marshall Academy (TMA), the first new high school to be built in Harlem in more than 50 years. TMA is a 90,000 sq. ft., state-of-the-art facility, located at the corner of 135th Street and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. This past year also marked the completion of ADC and Forest City Ratner’s “Harlem Center” —a 300,000 sq. ft. commercial/retail space that currently houses Marshall’s, CVS Pharmacy, H&M, Staples, Dunkin Donuts and a Washington Mutual Bank.

-more-

In (year), in a joint venture with the Community Association of the East Harlem Triangle, ADC developed a 62,000 sq. ft. retail center that includes a 24-hour Pathmark Supermarket and a Chase Bank that launched the revitalization of the 125th street economic corridor. The project created more than 200 permanent jobs in the community, with over 75% held by local residents.

About the Abyssinian Development Corporation

The Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC) is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit comprehensive community development corporation dedicated to improving the quality of life in Harlem. For almost fifteen years, ADC has helped to strengthen and rebuild the socioeconomic fabric of the Harlem community by developing housing, spearheading commercial development, stimulating the local economy, fostering education, strengthening families and building community capacity through civic engagement. By providing quality affordable housing, social services, educational opportunities and economic development programs, ADC has played a key leadership role in the current "Harlem Renaissance." Started in 1989 with one employee and a \$50,000 grant, ADC has grown into a \$7 million 65-person agency with significant accomplishments including development of low-income housing, housing ownership opportunities as well as commercial and retail development.