



**THE
Michaels
ORGANIZATION**

Together We Build Communities

For Immediate Release

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JERSEY CITY RECOGNIZES COMPUTER SAVVY SENIORS
*Ceremony at City Hall Celebrates 28 Graduates of Computer Literacy Courses
Offered at Affordable Housing Communities*

Jersey City, NJ, July 19—Jersey City today celebrated the achievements of 28 senior citizens who successfully completed computer literacy training offered through programs at their affordable housing communities.

The special recognition ceremony held at City Hall was headlined by Mayor Jerramiah Healy and Maria Maio, the Executive Director of the Jersey City Housing Authority, who congratulated the residents on not only for becoming computer savvy but for taking advantage of the extensive array of Social Services programs available to them at their apartment communities, which are owned and managed by companies of The Michaels Organization.

“For years, The Michaels Organization has been an active participant in the revitalization of our city,” said Mayor Healy. “Not only did they provide development and management of affordable housing communities for our families, which spur job growth, but they have also ensured that many of our local residents are employed on these construction sites. Today, we are recognizing our partnership with Interstate Realty Management, as they continue to give back to the community by offering our senior residents computer literacy classes.”

This first class of computer literacy class graduates live at Ocean Pointe, Lafayette Gardens Senior Living Center, and Ocean Towers. Ocean Pointe and Lafayette Gardens Senior Living Center were both developed by the Jersey City Housing Authority in partnership with The Michaels Development Company, as part of a massive HOPE VI revitalization of formerly blighted Lafayette Gardens public housing. Ocean Towers is an apartment community for the elderly who are eligible to receive Section 8 housing vouchers from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

All three of these communities are managed by Interstate Realty Management (IRM), which is the leading partner with HUD on its Neighborhood Networks initiative, which is aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and providing technology access to residents living in HUD-insured and HUD-assisted communities.

“We are extremely pleased and happy that that this group of seniors living in our communities has taken this very important course and have successfully completed it,” said Raul Vicente Jr., IRM’s Senior Neighborhood Network Specialist. “The valuable computer skills can help our seniors keep connected with family and friends, manage their finances, and, in general add to their quality of life.” Vicente said.

Vicente and Damaris Guzman, the Social Services Coordinator for the Communities at Lafayette taught the five classes that comprise the six-week course that the seniors participated in. All the IRM residents who successfully completed the course were awarded certificates by the Mayor at today's ceremony.

The Graduates

Lafayette Senior Living Center:

Ruth Thalia Legere, Gloria Lopez, Barbara Watson, Varnel Archibald, Bestina Marte, Gladys Echevarria, Rafael Mateo, Elidad Feliciano and Elsa Villeta.

Ocean Towers: Odell Samuel, Brenda Calhoun, Betty Belton, Essie Brangman, Julio Quinto, Minnie Goodson, Lena Johnson, Ida Dickson, Norma Vilmar, Theresa Williams, Lydia Bonilla, Dolores Cotton and Ogreta Reid.

Ocean Pointe: Rosea Williams, Barbara Gordon, Ena Perry, Sylvia Housey, and Martha Bowers.

About The Michaels Organization: Michaels Development Company and Interstate Realty Management are part of The Michaels Organization, a family of companies privately held by housing visionary Michael J. Levitt, and dedicated to excellence in affordable, mixed-income, student, and military housing. Michaels Development Company is the number-one ranked private sector affordable housing owner in the country and in 2010 was named the Multifamily Development Firm of the Year by the National Association of Home Builders. Interstate Realty Management is an award-winning property and asset management company offering nationally acclaimed social services.