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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REM Ohio Begins Construction on New Opportunities Program Center

AKRON, OHIO – REM Ohio announced today that they have begun construction on a new Social and Vocational Opportunities Program Center, located at 2052 Romig Road, which is scheduled to begin services in mid-July. The new 6,100 square foot center will be home to the company’s Social and Vocational Opportunities programs for adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The company currently operates a similar program center in the Portage Lakes area.

The Social Opportunities program at the Romig Road location will serve up to 30 individuals. This premiere program will focus on identifying each individual’s interests, goals and needs from which a customized itinerary of center-based and community activities will be developed. The Social Opportunities program will feature a “Snoodlin Room” for sensory stimulation; an art studio with a variety of art mediums to work with and experience; and a learning computer room. In addition, a variety of programs and clubs will be developed based on the identified interests of people attending.

We believe that helping individuals connect and build relationships within the community is very important,” said Buffie LaBelle, regional director, REM Ohio. “We will be out and involved in the community as often as possible. Our activities could include assisting in a clothing drive, volunteering at a local nursing home, participating in various classes, swimming at the YMCA, or touring a local factory or business.”

REM Ohio’s Vocational Opportunities program at its newest location will serve up to 20 individuals by offering a variety of work experience in small group settings. The Vocational Opportunities program focuses on assisting individuals in acquiring skills needed to pursue work-related goals. Currently, Vocational Opportunities crews are involved in a number of off-site jobs including lawn care, carpet cleaning, car washing/detailing, and office cleaning. Each week, individuals enrolled in the vocational program will also have time carved out to work on improving work-related skills through classroom instruction, role-playing and other focused activities.

“In our new space, we will also be offering the opportunity for our craftier individuals to create items and get assistance with basic marketing and selling their creations to the general public,” added LaBelle. “These items can range from pet accessories to handcrafted items for the home.”

Individuals interested in learning more about or enrolling in either program at the Romig Road Opportunities Program Center are invited to contact the REM Ohio office located at 470 Portage Lakes Drive by calling (888) 644-9730.