



News Release

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BANK LEUMI USA'S COMMUNITY INVESTMENT BENEFITS ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY IN CHICAGO'S SOUTHSIDE

CRA Qualified Investment Fund Purchases Bond On Bank's Behalf To Help Finance Churchview Supportive Living Facility

FT. LAUDERDALE, FL – March 17, 2005 – The south Chicago neighborhood of Chicago Lawn is undergoing an urban renaissance. Re-gentrification efforts are sparking residential, commercial, and industrial developments, a trend that has contributed to the community's 20% population increase over the past ten years. Thanks in part to Bank Leumi USA, its senior residents are enjoying the revival as well, with a new place to call home.

Last October, the Greater Southwest Development Corporation opened the doors to the Churchview Supportive Living Facility, an 86-unit assisted care residence for seniors. Located in the diverse neighborhood of Chicago Lawn, the facility provides Medicaid-eligible seniors of all backgrounds with a host of services including transportation, housekeeping, dining, and social activities.

Bank Leumi USA helped to provide funding for the project through its investment in the CRA Qualified Investment Fund (CRAIX), a community investment mutual fund. The Fund allocated Bank Leumi USA's investment toward the purchase of a City of Chicago revenue bond issued to aid in the acquisition, construction, and equipping of the facility.

The \$16 million project was developed by the Greater Southwest Development Corporation, a non-profit organization established in 1974 to advance commercial, residential, and industrial growth in south Chicago. "The Churchview Supportive Living Facility will function as an affordable residential alternative for area seniors who wish to live independently but need some assistance to do so," said Jim Capraro, the group's executive director. "We're grateful for institutions like Bank Leumi USA and the CRA Qualified Investment Fund – organizations that have recognized the need for and the return from economic development in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods."

"CRA Qualified Investment Fund's purchase of this bond on our behalf continues Bank Leumi USA's longstanding tradition of social awareness. We're particularly proud of the center's potential to improve the lives of Chicago Lawn seniors while boosting the community as a whole," said Mr. Uzi Rozen, CEO of Bank Leumi USA. Each of the facility's 86 units are occupied by Medicaid-eligible tenants, and at least 40% of the units must be occupied by residents earning no more than 60% of the area's median income as adjusted for family size.

About The CRA Qualified Investment Fund

The Fund invests in market rate, high credit quality (A-rated or better) community development-oriented securities.



On behalf of shareholders, the \$580 million Fund has purchased more than \$1.2 billion in securities that have helped finance affordable rental housing, mortgages for low- to moderate-income families, affordable healthcare, down-payment assistance programs, job creation, and job training. Simultaneously, the Fund has earned competitive returns for its shareholders.

For more information about the CRA Qualified Investment Fund, call 877-CRA-1977 or visit www.crafund.com.

About Bank Leumi

Bank Leumi USA is an FDIC-insured commercial bank that provides financial services to middle- to upper-middle market firms, international businesses, and not-for-profit organizations through offices in New York, Illinois, California and Florida. BLUSA offers U.S. and international private banking services as well as a full range of securities and insurance products through its brokerage subsidiary, Leumi Investment Services Inc. Bank Leumi USA, operating in the U.S. for more than fifty years, is the largest subsidiary of the Leumi Group, founded in 1902, with assets of \$56 billion.

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*As of 12/31/2004. Source: CRAFund Advisors. An investment in the Fund is not a deposit or obligation of, or insured or guaranteed by, any entity or person, including the U.S. Government and the FDIC. Past performance does not guarantee future results. To obtain a Prospectus with more complete information including investment objectives, risks, performance and charges and expenses contact CRAFund Advisors at 1-877-CRA-1977. Please read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money. The Fund is a no load fund distributed by Citco Mutual Fund Distributors, Inc. (Member NASD) which is not affiliated with Bank Leumi USA or any of its affiliates.