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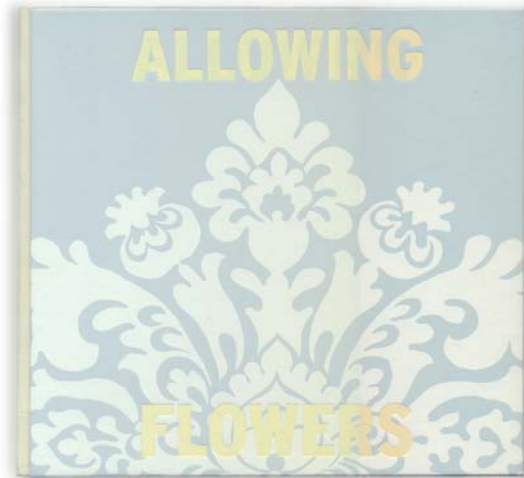
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**Compelling Images by World Renowned Photographer  
Alec Soth Featured in New Book, “*Allowing Flowers*” for  
CommonBond Communities**

*Soth’s photos feature local CommonBond residents; limited edition book benefits the  
development of additional affordable housing and resident services*

St. Paul, Minn. (September 21, 2009) – CommonBond Communities, the largest nonprofit housing developer, manager and resident services provider in the Upper Midwest is proud to announce the release of *Allowing Flowers*, a limited-edition book created specifically for CommonBond Communities. *Allowing Flowers* features the work of Alec Soth, an internationally renowned photographer who blends his unique style of photography with the organization’s mission to provide homes for those most in need.



Front cover: *Allowing Flowers*

*Allowing Flowers* is a beautiful, 11”x12” bound, hard-cover book featuring full color photos of CommonBond residents by Alec Soth. The book was designed by California artist Catherine Mills, of Catherine Mills Design. Each book cover (both front and back) is unique and one-of-a kind.

In *Allowing Flowers*, Soth captures the humanity of the word “home” in a powerful collection of images featuring seniors, families and children who live in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area. The book features photos of the very people CommonBond helps; their ‘common bond’ is living in CommonBond Communities’ affordable apartments and town homes.

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The goal of *Allowing Flowers* is to call attention to the growing need for affordable housing in our communities. Currently, there are more than 5,800 households on a waiting list for the 100 apartments and townhome properties CommonBond Communities owns and manages. The difficult challenges facing people who struggle with foreclosures, job losses and decreased income equate to a real and tangible need for additional housing options people can afford and be proud of. Instead of retreating during these challenging economic times, CommonBond is inspired to look for ways to provide more affordable housing that also helps contribute to strong, viable communities. Public donations are now more important than ever.

Donors who give to those in need will receive a unique, one-of-a-kind thank you gift from CommonBond Communities. Premier donors (those who donate \$5,000 or more to CommonBond's first-ever capital-campaign) will receive a copy of the *Allowing Flowers* limited edition book. Those who commit to a gift of \$25,000 or more will receive a personally signed and numbered print by Alec Soth in addition to the book. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated and will create stable, supportive homes for people in need and "allow flowers" to bloom in their lives.

*Allowing Flowers* is part of CommonBond Communities' *Open 4000 Doors* campaign helping fund 4,000 additional affordable apartments and townhomes over a five year period. The campaign also will help bolster CommonBond's on-site Advantage Center Services — programs that assist residents with after-school enrichment for kids, employment preparation and placement for working adults, independent living services for seniors as well as opportunities for English language literacy. Finally, the *Open 4000 Doors* campaign plans to create an environmentally friendly campus in St. Paul, which includes affordable homes for individuals who have experienced long term homelessness as well as new office space for CommonBond.

The work of Minnesota-born photographer Alec Soth has been featured locally at the Weisman Gallery, the Walker Art Center and the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Soth's highly collectible work has graced major public and private collections, also showing in solo and group exhibitions in galleries around the world. His work has appeared in *Fortune* and *Newsweek* and he was recently featured in *The New York Times* where he was named one of the rising stars of the photography world.

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**About CommonBond Communities:**

CommonBond Communities is the largest nonprofit provider of affordable homes with services in the Upper Midwest. Located in over 40 municipalities, CommonBond has earned a national reputation for excellence in developing and managing quality affordable housing as it provides customized resident services administered through Advantage Center Services that promote resident success. CommonBond is currently conducting a \$21 million dollar *Open 4000 Doors* campaign to open 4,000 additional affordable apartments and townhomes over a five year period. See: [www.commonbondopen4000doors.org/allowing\\_flowers.php](http://www.commonbondopen4000doors.org/allowing_flowers.php)

To learn more about *Allowing Flowers* and CommonBond Communities' *Open 4000 Doors* campaign or to make a donation please visit [www.commonbond.org](http://www.commonbond.org).

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**Notes for Media:** Paul Fate, the president of CommonBond Communities and other dignitaries associated with the *Allowing Flowers* project are available for interviews, and can also discuss CommonBond's *Open 4000 Doors* campaign.

Additional images of photos from *Allowing Flowers* are available for press use. Please contact Deb or Sarah for additional information.