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WANT TO BUY A HOME? PREPARE NOW TO BUY LATER

ST. LOUIS, MO (August 22, 2011) – A home is one of the most significant investments you will make in your lifetime. Therefore, purchasing a home is an exercise that requires preparation, organization and strategy.

“Many homebuyers already work with a financial advisor. However, only a Realtor understands the real estate industry and local trends as well as what steps buyers need to take before purchasing a home,” said Jim Dohr, president of Coldwell Banker Gundaker.

While your Realtor will help guide you, you can take preliminary steps for home ownership by:

- **Organizing your paperwork.** Tax documents, pay stubs and bank statements are documents that a mortgage broker needs to see in order to verify your financial health.
- **Assessing your savings.** A higher down payment means a lower monthly payment, so save as much cash as you can for the down payment and closing costs.
- **Starting the approval process.** Meet with several lenders to assess what you can afford based on your income, savings and existing debt. Speak with your Realtor about the need for a pre-approval letter. It’s easier for sellers to take a buyer’s offer seriously when there is proof that a bank is prepared to offer them a loan.

Coldwell Banker Gundaker, the leading residential real estate brokerage company in St. Louis, operates more than 20 offices with nearly 2,000 sales associates serving metropolitan St. Louis and east-central Missouri. Coldwell Banker Gundaker is part of NRT LLC, the nation’s largest residential real estate brokerage company. NRT, a subsidiary of Realty Corporation, operates Realty’s company-owned real estate brokerage offices. For more information, please visit www.cbgundaker.com.

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