

News Release

Embargoed until 12 noon on September 22, 2011.

Contact: Shaun Rieve

shaun.riev@azhousing.gov

Office: (602) 771-1008

2011 Arizona Housing Forum



Tucson residents and projects among those honored at 2011 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards

Scottsdale – At a mid-day luncheon during the Eighth Annual Arizona Housing Forum, Tucson residents and projects will garner Housing Hero Awards for their commitment to numerous housing issues. With seven different categories, the awards serve to recognize individuals and organizations who exhibit exemplary efforts to support affordable housing for moderate and low-income Arizona families and support individuals in the community dealing with a myriad of housing issues. The award recognitions will feature Arizona Department of Housing Director, Michael Trailor as emcee and will be held at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The awards are named in honor of the outstanding service that the late Brian Mickelsen shared with the Arizona Housing Finance Authority and serves as a lasting tribute to the former Cottonwood city manager's public service.

51 Homes Tucson will be recognized with the **Innovative Supportive Housing Program Award** recognizing creative programs and services that provide outstanding housing related support and resources to individuals.

51 Homes: Providing Hope, Improving Health, Changing Lives is a collaborative effort of community leaders from the non-profit, governmental and business communities striving to end homelessness among the most medically vulnerable individuals in the greater Tucson area.

By using the "Housing First" model, 51 Homes Tucson was able to take these individuals experiencing homelessness and place them in a stable environment where all supportive services could be delivered right to their new doorstep. Through the collaboration of housing resources and supportive services, 51 Homes was able to assist the "hardest-to-serve" community with becoming housed and receiving the support that was once so desperately needed.

The **Exemplary Urban Multi-Family Project Award** recognizes an outstanding multifamily rental project in urban Arizona that serves low to moderate income individuals, families or seniors. The City of Tucson Depot Plaza/ Martin Luther King HOPE VI Revitalization Project will receive this award for their outstanding comprehensive mixed-use development with the overall goal of improving a decaying downtown neighborhood and enhancing the lives of the residents living in the Martin Luther King building.

The MLK building includes 68 full accessible one-bedroom units ranging from 628 to 780 square feet, each with a private outdoor balcony. The MLK building is a unique development that not only enhances the lives of the diverse population of its residents, but also serves as a catalyst for future housing and community revitalization.

This year's **Tribal Initiatives Award** will recognize the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for their achievements in helping to meet the housing needs of tribal members in Arizona. After several years of observing Arizona tribes receive awards of Low Income Housing Tax Credits for affordable low-rent housing, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe finally decided in 2009 to proceed with their own application. Through the efforts of their housing staff, the tribe was able to succeed in securing tax credits in July of 2010 to begin the new construction and rehabilitations of a 40 unit development.

Due to the early success of their first project, Pascua Yaqui has plans for a second project which would result in the tribe constructing or rehabilitating a total of 96 units at an approximate cost of \$17 million between the two projects. Of this amount, \$12 million will be contributed through investor equity.

Olga Osterhage will be awarded with the **Arthur Crozier Partner in Housing Award** which celebrates the single action or a lifetime of successes of an individual committed to improving the lives of families and the health of communities through recognition that decent, affordable housing is basic to our social fabric.

Throughout her 28 year career with the City of Tucson, Ms. Osterhage has demonstrated extraordinary leadership on behalf of many in the community by her work in the City's public housing program. She has improved the lived of thousands of individuals in the community who have been participants in the public housing programs.

Ms. Osterhage has established a benchmark for her successors in terms of reaching a delicate balance that ensures that the desires of the community are given the highest priority while advocating for those who are in need.

Additional 2011 Honorees:

Additional annual housing awards will be presented in three other categories. The **Outstanding Affordable Housing Initiative Award** will be presented to Devine Legacy on Central for their innovative planning and ability to integrate critical supportive services with energy efficiency and superior design.

2011 Housing Hero News Release/ 9.22.2011

The Yuma Senior Terraces project in Yuma, Arizona will be recognized with the **Exemplary Rural Multifamily Project Award** for their innovative design and dedication to providing a healthy living environment for seniors in our community.

Phoenix Councilman Tom Simplot will be presented with the 2011 **Elected Official Award** which recognizing his efforts for supportive housing for the chronically homeless.

About the 2011 Housing Forum:

Now in its eighth year, the Annual Arizona Housing Forum continues to attract large numbers of housing professionals looking to explore new strategies and ideas on the housing industry's foremost issues. This year's conference highlights include keynotes by Michael Traylor, Director of the Arizona Department of Housing; Arizona State University Research Professor, Dr. Lee McPheters; Fred Karnas, Senior Advisor to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan and Michael Yankoski, author of *Under the Overpass*.

###