

News Release

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2011 Arizona Housing Forum



Yuma development honored at 2011 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards

Scottsdale – At a mid-day luncheon during the Eighth Annual Arizona Housing Forum, a Yuma development will garner awards in a category that recognizes an outstanding multifamily rental project in rural Arizona that serves low to moderate income individuals, families or seniors. The award recognitions will feature Arizona Department of Housing Director, Michael Traylor 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.

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. The development is composed of 60 newly constructed senior apartment units using the latest "Green" technologies. Funded through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program and federal HOME funds, the project boasted an impressive 100 percent occupancy in three and half month's time.

Establishing an environment for seniors to thrive is a high priority for the Foundation for Senior Living and through Yuma Senior Terrace's vast amenities expectations were succeeded. Yuma Senior Terraces exhibits superior design through their green initiatives around the project. The project is equipped with a full solar panel system with panels mounted on carports and rooftops of every residential building. The Foundation for Senior Living pays all of the utility costs so residents are left with no additional financial burden.

Additional 2011 Honorees:

Additional annual housing awards will be presented in six other categories. The **Innovative Supportive Housing Program Award** recognizes creative programs and services that provide

outstanding housing related support and resources to individuals. 51 Homes Tucson will receive this award for their commitment to combating homelessness and providing supportive services to individuals experiencing homelessness.

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.

The **Exemplary Urban Multifamily Project Award** will be presented to Depot Plaza / Martin Luther King Revitalization Project for their unique design and ability to transform a decaying neighborhood, in Tucson, into a vibrant and exciting neighborhood.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe will receive the **Tribal Initiatives Award** recognizing their achievements to help meet the housing needs of tribal members in Arizona.

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

The final annual award, **Arthur Crozier Partner in Housing Award**, will recognize Olga Osterhage for her lifetime of service and dedication to enhancing our communities through improved public housing.

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*.

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