

# 2012 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Award

*Elected Official*

**Corey Woods**

**Councilmember, City of Tempe**

During his first term on the Tempe City Council, Corey Woods has been a strong advocate for affordable housing, ensuring that Tempe provides accessible and affordable housing as part of the City's housing stock. Corey's tireless advocacy for the preservation and development of affordable housing has given the Tempe community a strong and articulate voice that ensures that affordable housing remains at the forefront of the public policy discussion in Tempe.

From his work as the Chair of the Housing & Social Service Programs Council Committee to serving on the board of the Tempe Community Action Agency (one of Tempe's non-profit organizations dedicated to helping individuals and families in need) as well as other board appointments to regional non-profit organizations, Corey both influences public policy on affordable housing as well as "walking the walk" by spending his time and energy giving back to his community.

In December 2011, the Encore project opened to appreciative residents and added diversity to the Downtown Tempe Community. Encore is a 56 unit apartment community for low income seniors which was awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the Arizona Department of Housing. Corey led the charge for the City in advancing this project on city-owned property and a myriad of agreements and was the most vocal supporter on the city council when the inevitable challenges arose in navigating the complex tax credit process which required numerous council actions. Today Encore is completely leased and provides quality affordable rental housing for seniors in the heart of Tempe. Other projects in which Corey's involvement was an integral influence: Apache ASL Trails, a 75 unit affordable project providing housing for deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind seniors; and, Gracie's Village which will provide 50 units of workforce housing built with sustainable building products and materials.

Tempe's Housing Trust Fund (HTF) also owes much of its existence to Corey. The HTF was created to serve as a funding conduit for supportive development activities designed to create and promote Workforce Housing. Again, Corey was the most vocal City Council advocate for the creation of the HTF as he recognized that this "workforce" demographic faced its own unique challenges in creating and maintaining quality housing. Corey's leadership at the council level paved the way for the successful creation of the HTF as it fills an important role in serving Tempe's entire community by assisting those who need affordable housing options.



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## Exemplary Rural Multifamily Project

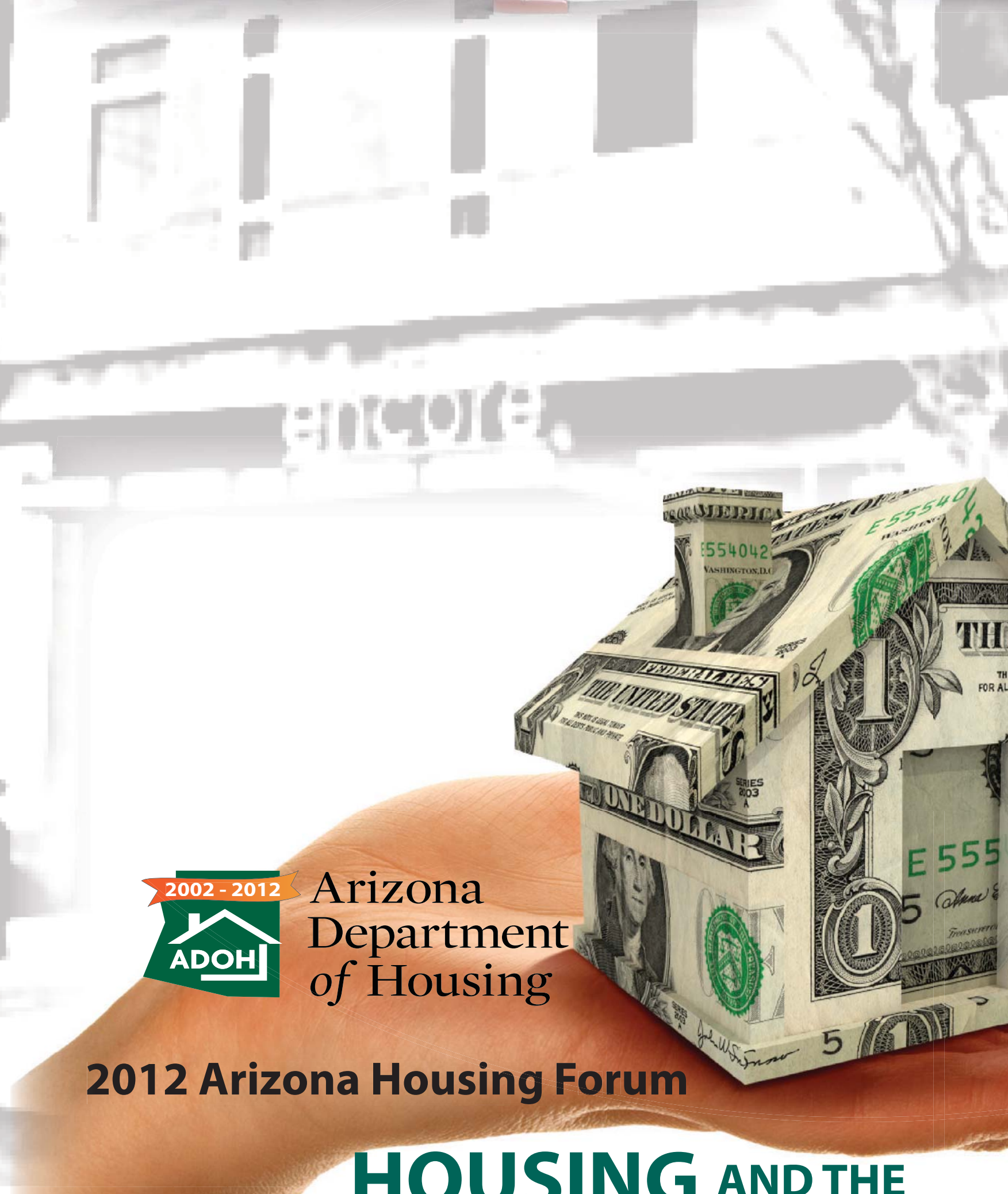
### White Mountain Villas

Foundation for Senior Living

The City of Show and the Foundation for Senior Living (FSL) have shared great success in serving the seniors of Show Low. Through this partnership, White Mountain Villas was born. The project adds thirty two affordable units for low-income seniors. It is a universally designed campus that embraces the highest quality of life for seniors and is the third phase of a senior campus that began construction in 2002. Phase III not only adds additional housing units but includes a luxurious Community Life Center which has become a gathering place for residents and community partners.

White Mountain Villas exhibits garden-style architecture, which includes eco conscious green design elements close to the local hospital, shopping and other community amenities as well as services required by the senior residents. The project's phases promote economic integration with a mixture of affordable and market rate units serving seniors. FSL's commitment to creating affordable quality housing is tied to its basic mission of serving vulnerable seniors, maintaining their dignity and helping them age in place.

White Mountain Villas is an exemplary example of environmentally conscious affordable senior housing exemplifying FSL's leadership in green technology and its reputation to meet and exceed industry standards in all of its affordable housing endeavors.



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## Exemplary Urban Multifamily Project

### Grandfamilies Place of Phoenix

Tanner Properties, Inc.

Grandparents assuming the responsibility for grandchildren can easily become overwhelmed by issues related to parenting and discipline. Society has changed since they were parents, and, though many behavior issues are common regardless of the generation, these societal changes often pose difficult problems. Because many children have come from a traumatic environment, their behavior patterns may differ from other children in their age group, causing further parenting concerns.

According to the Association of American Retired Persons (AARP) around 7% of Arizona children live with a grandparent. Grandfamilies Place of Phoenix apartments presents a new concept of affordable housing, targeting housing for grandparents who have legal custody to raise their grandchildren for any number of reasons. It is the first affordable rental housing complex of its kind in Arizona and only the second in the country. Its construction was the execution of an idea Tanner Properties had been working on for several years.

Twenty nine barracks-style buildings have been replaced with two 3-story buildings as well as a pool and sports court for the children to enjoy. A service coordinator is onsite to assist with social needs. The project was completed in June, 2012. Total development costs were \$11.5 million and funding was comprised of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), City of Phoenix HOME program funds and a private loan.



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