

News Release

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ADOH Announces 2014 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Award Recipients

Phoenix – Today, the Arizona Department of Housing announced the recipients of the 2014 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards. The Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards recognize outstanding service by individuals and organizations for their commitment to numerous housing issues throughout the state. Nominees in seven different categories are selected based on their efforts to support affordable housing for moderate and low-income Arizona families. The awards are named in honor of the outstanding public service exemplified by the late Brian Mickelsen, an original member of the Arizona Housing Finance Authority and former city manager for the Town of Cottonwood.

The **Outstanding Affordable Housing Initiative Award** will be presented to 29 Palms Apartments of Phoenix. 29 Palms Apartments is a newly refurbished, incredibly unique affordable multifamily housing property, co-locating fifteen apartments for seniors 55 years of age and older with six apartments for adults 18 years and older, with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Today, many young adults with autism are being cared for by aging parents who in most cases will not outlive their children, leaving them limited options for lifelong support. This growing new subset of the developmentally disabled population is too old for continued support through the special education services of a public school system and too fragile to live without support in the larger world.

The Foundation for Senior Living, in partnership with First Place, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to providing supportive housing for young adults with autism, developed 29 Palms to provide housing and supportive services to enhance the quality of life of both the seniors and the young adults with autism who desire to live there.

Apache ASL Trails in Tempe will be recognized with the **Innovative Supportive Housing Program Award**. This award recognizes creative programs and services that provide outstanding housing related support and resources to individuals.

Cardinal Capital Management, partnered with the Arizona Deaf Senior Citizens Coalition to build Apache ASL Trails, a 75 unit, active, state-of-the art, independent living community for seniors 55 years of age and older. Located along the Valley Metro Light Rail in Tempe, Apache ASL Trails provides an affordable housing option for seniors, including those who are deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind.

In the United States, experts estimate that there are less than 400 units of low income housing that are accessible for individuals who are deaf. Apache ASL Trails fills a desperately needed void in accessible housing for these individuals who have lived in isolation in a hearing society.

This year's **Tribal Initiatives Award** will recognize the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. The 17,000 member Tribe has successfully completed two projects totaling 96 units in less than three years. The units developed for the projects known as Pascua Yaqui Homes II and IV, add 40 new units along with over 70 rehabilitated units.

While the State of Arizona average household size is 2.66 persons, on the reservation the average is 5 persons. With an aging housing stock, the Tribe has more than 500 households on its waiting list for housing. Pascua Yaqui Homes II and IV include a mix of three, four, and five bedroom single family homes to ease the overcrowding issues.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe has succeeded in providing their lowest income residents with safe and affordable homes while preserving the Tribe's rich history and tradition. It can charge minimal rent to its impoverished residents and still utilize a very secure financing structure. The Tribe's achievements serve as a source of hope and an example to other tribes.

Gary Bachman, Administrator of Housing and Community Programs for Pima County, will be awarded with the **Arthur Cozier Partner in Housing Award** which celebrates the single action or a lifetime of success 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.

Gary has served southern Arizona for nearly thirty years. He is a champion for the working poor and is an innovative thinker. Gary possesses a vision for the possibilities, but is a realist about the day-to-day management and responsibilities that are required to get the job done. Most recently he was the author of a successful grant application for \$22 million under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the chief architect of the project that included the formation of the Pima County Community Land Trust.

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. For the first time ever, two projects will be awarded, Encore on First and La Abuelitas Family Housing and Community Center.

Located in Mesa, Encore on First is an 81 unit transit-oriented apartment community for low-income independent seniors. The City of Mesa's leadership and commitment to light rail created the opportunity to redevelop this site, which was acquired from the City, into an urban community for residents who desire a walk-able lifestyle.

The building's many sustainable features includes water saving fixtures, energy lighting and windows, and a 60 KW solar plant located on the roof that is tied into the City of Mesa's downtown power grid. This investment in renewable energy created a federal tax credit and local rebate to help offset the installation costs.

Several years ago, a delegation of grandparents and great-grandparents met with the Primavera Foundation to explain their needs for accessible affordable housing in a community setting. They had a vision of a housing community where residents could provide cooperative child care, programming for elders and children, along with play and meeting areas for families.

In Arizona, 60,000 children are being raised by grandparents or great-grandparents; 29 percent live in poverty; 62 percent of these grandparents are working or job hunting; and 21 percent of them have a

disability. These types of families frequently deal with a variety of issues such as incarcerated parents, health and medical issues, financial stress, or even a grandchild having a baby.

Las Abuelitas Family Housing and Community Center provides an affordable housing option for grandparents and great-grandparents that have legal custody to raise their grandchildren and great-grandchildren in a safe and healthy environment.

Pineview Manor Apartments has been providing subsidized housing to Payson's seniors for 29 years and will be recognized with the **Exemplary Rural Multifamily Project Award**. The 29 unit campus was originally built in 1986; however, in 2010 the Foundation for Senior Living's St. Peter Place, the owner entity for Pineview Manor, received an allocation of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits along with additional federal funds to acquire and rehabilitate the existing apartment units and add 20 newly constructed units to the campus.

Pineview Manor represents all that is positive about a low-income senior community, serving seniors 62 years of age and older at 40, 50, and 60 percent of the area median income for Gila County. The project was constructed using environmentally friendly technologies including photovoltaic solar panels.

Tucson Mayor, Jonathan Rothschild will be presented with the 2014 **Elected Official Award** which recognizes an Arizona elected official who has demonstrated ongoing support for affordable housing projects and programs including housing for homeless, domestic violence, special needs and low income families and seniors. Mayor Rothschild exemplifies this award through his ongoing advocacy for affordable housing and ending homelessness in Tucson and throughout southern Arizona.

In addition to the Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards, ADOH and the Arizona Housing Finance Authority (AzHFA) will be presenting two additional awards.

The AzHFA will be presenting Wallick and Volk with the 2014 **High Volume Producer Award** for their amazing work assisting first time homebuyers in Arizona achieve the dream of homeownership. The loans for these homebuyers were made possible through the AzHFA.

Finally, ADOH will present Teresa Brice, Executive Director of LISC Phoenix, with the **Arizona Department of Housing Lifetime Achievement Award** for her years of commitment and dedication to providing quality and affordable housing while revitalizing neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities.

The awards will be presented this afternoon at the JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort in Tucson, Arizona at a luncheon during the 11^h Annual Arizona Housing Forum.

About the 2014 Housing Forum

Now in its eleventh year, the Arizona Housing Forum is the only statewide housing conference in Arizona. It has become a venue for elected officials, policymakers, industry professionals, advocates, and community leaders from across the state and nation to address the significant challenges facing Arizona's housing market. The theme of this year's Forum is "Do Something!" This year's Forum will include keynotes by Arizona Department of Housing Director Michael Traylor; Tucson Mayor, Jonathan Rothschild; Arizona State University Research Professor Dr. Lee McPheters; author Uche Odiatu.

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