

News Release

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ADOH Announces 2013 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Award Recipients

Phoenix – Today, the Arizona Department of Housing announced the recipients of the 2013 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 Blue Moon Garden of Tucson. Blue Moon Garden is Tucson's first fully-accessible community garden and is situated adjacent to the Tucson House, a public housing facility. The barrier-free, environmentally sustainable design includes 36 garden beds, 24 of which are raised to accommodate residents with limited mobility. Rainwater and air condition condensate, captured from the roof of the Tucson House, irrigates fruit trees and other plants in the garden. The Garden offers park-like amenities enjoyed by all residents.

209 West Jackson in Phoenix 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. 209 West Jackson provides a safe and affordable living environment for low income, single adults, small families, and young adults with disabling conditions or significant risks of homelessness. The 300 fully furnished studio apartments allow residents to maintain self-sufficiency in a healthy living environment.

This year's **Tribal Initiatives Award** will recognize the Navajo Housing Authority. The Navajo Housing Authority conducted a housing survey among the Navajo people identifying an immediate need for 34,000 homes in 110 communities across the Navajo Nation. Based on the housing need, the Navajo Housing Authority, working with Swaback Partners, created a Sustainable Community Master Planning Initiative. Today the Navajo Housing Authority is getting ready to start building the first five demonstration housing sites and this construction will continue for the next 5-10 years to start meeting the housing needs of the Navajo Nation.

Steve Hastings, Director of Real Estate Services for the Foundation for Senior Living (FSL) 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. Since joining FSL in 2003, Steve has added 354 affordable tax credit housing units to FSL's portfolio. His

leadership and stewardship have also helped four other Arizona non-profits meet their affordable housing goals. This selfless approach will provide 203 additional units of permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless persons, veterans, persons with mental and physical disabilities and families throughout Arizona.

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. Native American Connection's Encanto Pointe will receive this year's award for their outstanding project targeting the chronically homeless.

Encanto Pointe is a great example of what can be achieved when a community comes together to solve a problem. Located in Phoenix, this 54 unit apartment complex is the state's first ever "Housing First" community. The "Housing First" concept places individuals into a stable environment which includes access to social and medical services. Rather than gradually working their way through various shelters or temporary housing facilities, "Housing First" individuals go immediately into permanent housing, regardless of their current circumstances. This approach is based on the belief that an individual is more likely to succeed by removing the instability that comes with being homeless.

Apache Junction Townhomes will be recognized with the **Exemplary Rural Multifamily Project Award**. Built by Adams Construction and Management Company, Apache Junction Townhomes is a brand new community, located in Apache Junction, featuring 88 beautiful homes. Residents of Apache Junction Townhomes are given the opportunity of homeownership after 15 years of renting. Residents, who desire, will receive a credit for every dollar in rent that they paid to apply to the purchase of their unit.

Mesa Councilman Dave Richins will be presented with the 2013 **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. Councilman Richins exemplifies this award through his ongoing advocacy for affordable housing projects throughout the Mesa area.

In addition to the Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards, the Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) and the Arizona Housing Finance Authority (AzHFA) have added two new awards to the program.

The AzHFA will be presenting Guild Mortgage with the 2013 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's Mortgage Revenue Bond Plus program.

Finally, ADOH will present Guy Mikkelsen, CEO & President of the Foundation for Senior Living, with the Arizona Department of Housing Lifetime Achievement Award for his years of commitment and dedication to providing affordable housing and promoting quality of life for seniors, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers.

The awards will be presented this afternoon at the Talking Stick Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona at a luncheon during the 10^h Annual Arizona Housing Forum.

About the 2013 Housing Forum

Now in its tenth 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 Stand Up For Housing. This year's Forum will include a Fair Housing plenary, keynotes by Arizona Department of Housing Director Michael Traylor; Arizona State University Research Professor Dr. Lee McPheters; Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community President, Diane Enos; motivational speaker, Lou Heckler, non-profit consultant, Dr. Lee Draper; senior staff officials to Arizona's congressional delegation.

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