

News Release

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Phoenix organizations honored at 2010 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards

Tucson – At a mid-day luncheon during the Seventh Annual Arizona Housing Forum, Phoenix area residents and organizations will garner three awards in categories that recognize exemplary efforts to support affordable housing for moderate and low-income Arizona families and support individuals in the community dealing with housing issues. The award recognitions will feature Arizona Republic journalist Catherine Reagor as emcee, and will be held at the J.W. Marriot Starr Pass, in Tucson.

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 **Exemplary Multifamily Project Award** will be presented to McCarty on Monroe for their outstanding multi family project that provided affordable housing to low income seniors. The project was able to turn a one-acre city owned site containing 24 public housing units with no amenities, into the state of the art development that provides attractive housing options for seniors in a desirable living location.

Thanks to the Arizona Department of Housing's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program that helped fund the development; 34 of the 69 apartments are also supported by the public housing program ensuring additional affordability.

The McCarty on Monroe project was a unique opportunity to preserve existing public housing assistance, add new public housing units to the city's elderly housing inventory, provide additional low income tax credit units, and provide seniors with low incomes the access to affordable housing units with immediate light rail train access.

Recognizing the need to improve the lives of the homeless and implement new strategies to combat homelessness, Project H3 will be honored with the **Innovative Partnership Award** for their positive impact on the lives of the homeless community.

In April 2010, over 160 community volunteers combed the streets, alleys, and vacant lots of Phoenix, Mesa and Glendale, during the middle of the night for three consecutive days, to identify those homeless individuals living on the streets who are the most at risk of premature death. After collecting and analyzing information on 208 chronically homeless individuals, they were then ranked in order of medical vulnerability, with the goal of housing the 50 most vulnerable individuals by April 2011.

From furniture to food, from counseling to medical services, providers came and met the person, thus eliminating many of the traditional barriers this population typically faces. 20 of those original 208 homeless individuals have received in-kind Navigator services and 50 individuals have been sponsored through a myriad of in-kind and cash donations. Project H3 continues to exemplify unique partnerships and creative strategies to fight homelessness.

The third award, **Superior Sustainable Design**, goes to GreenStreet Development for their creative and innovative ways of developing cost affordable units that are energy efficient, with the end goal of creating environmental friendly and sustainable communities for the future.

With Phoenix being in the center of the housing crisis and the fact that single family homes are responsible for 21% of carbon emissions in the United States, GreenStreet Development looks to help and solve some of these issues by simultaneously reducing environmental impact and improving the community by transforming distressed properties into desired homes.

Due to GreenStreet Development's commitment to reducing the environmental impact of housing units, they were awarded the 2010 National Association of Home Builders Green Remodel Project of the Year, and the Founder of GreenStreet was awarded the National Association of Home Builders Green Advocate of the Year.

Additional 2010 Honorees:

Additional annual housing awards will be presented in three other categories. The **Outstanding Local Housing Program Award** recognizes the efforts of a local program that creates, improves, or promotes affordable housing. The Western Arizona Council of Governments will receive the award for their efforts to improve housing issues in western Arizona.

The San Carlos Apache Housing Authority will receive the **Tribal Initiatives Award** recognizing their achievements to help meet the housing needs of tribal members in Arizona and for their collaboration with the Arizona Department of Housing and the LIHTC program, for the building and rehabilitation of nearly \$27 million dollars of housing in a five-year period.

The final annual award, **Arthur Crozier Partner in Housing Award**, will recognize Helen Hudgens Ferrell for her lifetime of service and commitment to improving the lives of Flagstaff's low-income and homeless residents.

About the 2010 Housing Forum:

Now in its seventh 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; and Mercedes Marquez, HUD Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development.

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