

News Release

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Contact: Shaun Rieve

shaun.riev@azhousing.gov

Office: (602) 771-1008



San Carlos Apache Housing Authority honored at 2010 Brian Mickelsen Housing Hero Awards

Tucson – At a mid-day luncheon during the Seventh Annual Arizona Housing Forum, the San Carlos Apache Housing Authority will be recognized with a Housing Hero Award. With six different categories, the awards serve to recognize individuals and organizations who exhibit exemplary efforts to support affordable housing for moderate and low-income Arizona families and support individuals in the community dealing with a myriad of 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 **Tribal Initiatives Award** recognizes the achievement in helping to meet the housing needs of tribal members in Arizona. This year's tribal initiatives award will recognize the San Carlos Apache Housing Authority for their outstanding work in addressing critical housing issues for their tribal members.

With a serious lack of capital and shortage of housing funds to adequately address housing needs, the San Carlos Apache Housing Authority realized that it must look elsewhere to provide for the nearly 1,300 families living in sub-standard housing conditions and for the other 1,300 families living in over-crowded conditions, on the reservation.

Thus, in 2005 the San Carlos Apache Housing Authority embarked on its first Low Income Housing Tax Credit project; a 45 unit acquisition/rehabilitation development. 5 years later, they are in the process of rehabbing and constructing their 170th LIHTC unit as part of their fourth LIHTC project.

With the assistance from the Arizona Department of Housing and the LIHTC program, the Authority was able to build or rehabilitate nearly \$27 million dollars of housing in a five-year period.

Additional 2010 Honorees:

Additional annual housing awards will be presented in five 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 **Superior Sustainable Design Award** will be awarded to GreenStreet Development for their creative and innovative ways of developing cost affordable units, in the Phoenix area, that are energy efficient; with the end goal of creating environmental friendly and sustainable communities for the future.

Project H3 will be recognized with the **Innovative Partnerships Award** for their innovative and creative strategies to help fight homelessness and their continued dedication to providing valuable resources for those in the homeless community.

The **Exemplary Multifamily Project Award** will be presented to McCarty on Monroe for the construction of an affordable housing complex for low income seniors in the downtown Phoenix area.

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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