

National NeighborWorks® Association

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National NeighborWorks® Association Presents Excellence Awards to Three Outstanding Practitioners

Washington, DC – The National NeighborWorks® Association (NNA) presented three awards to outstanding individuals in the NeighborWorks® Network who have demonstrated innovative talent and dedicated commitment to the housing and community development industry. Prizes were awarded March 26, 2009 at the Annual NeighborWorks® Executive Directors Symposium in Washington, DC in the following three categories:

1. Lifetime Achievement - Prize \$5,000
2. Practitioner of the Year - Prize \$3,000
3. Emerging Leader - Prize \$3,000

Four, non-NeighborWorks®, industry-related executives and last year's winners judged the 2009 candidates. All judges commented on the quality of submissions received and noted how difficult it was to select just one winner.

Eddie Latimer, CEO of Affordable Housing Resources and President of NNA, presented the awards to the three winners:

Lifetime Achievement Award: Glenn Hayes, executive director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Orange County in Anaheim, CA. For the last 29 years, Hayes has provided extraordinary leadership for Neighborhood Housing Services of Orange County (NHS of OC). Hayes has been described as a visionary in leading his Board to develop cutting-edge programs that help low and moderate income clients achieve their goals, especially related to homeownership. Over the past 12 years, NHS of OC has funded over 500 loans totaling over \$24 million with the first and only default occurring at the beginning of this year.

In 2004, under Hayes' leadership, NHS of OC spearheaded an effort to begin the Orange County Housing Trust which was created to provide regional solutions to help meet the growing demand for affordable housing options in Orange County. NHS of OC has raised \$5 million to support the program in a combination of grants and low cost investments. To date, the Trust has funds over \$10 million in 2nd mortgages assisting 125 families and pre-developments assisting the creation of 210 homes affordable to Orange County's workforce.

NHS of OC has enjoyed remarkable success in literally turning neighborhoods around. For almost thirty years Hayes has led this resident-led, partnership based organization and has achieved great success restoring rundown neighborhoods to attractive, desirable and affordable places to live through the development and preservation of affordable housing.

Practitioner of the Year: Krishna Garlic, executive director of Brand New Day in Elizabeth, NJ. Garlic has taken on the foreclosure crisis in New Jersey as her personal cause. Even before there were funding opportunities available, Garlic provided this service in-kind as she saw a real need in the community. On February 11, 2009, Garlic and her foreclosure counseling staff were the only NeighborWorks® organization to participate in the national kickoff of the HOPE NOW Prevention Awareness Bus Tour Campaign. Entertainment celebrities Queen Latifah, Wyclef Jean and radio host Angie Martinez were invited to promote foreclosure prevention and intervention to Newark, NJ residents. National officials from Fannie Mae, NeighborWorks® America, Governor Jon S. Corzine and Mayor Cory Booker were in attendance. The "Bringing Hope Home" Campaign Bus, which advertises the homeowners hotline, (888) 995-4673 is scheduled to travel across the country promoting awareness. This past year Garlic has been a leader among leaders addressing the foreclosure crisis and the role of foreclosure counseling.

Emerging Leader: Colin Kelley, executive director of NeighborWorks® Western Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh, PA. NeighborWorks® Western Pennsylvania is becoming the "go to" place, the "one stop shop" for many nonprofit organizations and the individuals they serve of the low- to moderate-income population. The Pittsburgh Financial Consortium, which was founded by the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Pittsburgh Branch, is housed by NeighborWorks® Western Pennsylvania and is rolling out "Pittsburgh Saves"; this awareness campaign will use NeighborWorks® Western Pennsylvania financial education classes to teach the importance of building wealth not debt through home ownership. Kelley has forged many cooperative relationships throughout the area with various government agencies and other nonprofit counseling agencies. Furthermore, Kelley has stayed ahead of the curve when it comes to creative thinking and development of new and better ways to offer homebuyer education and financial fitness education, including creating the first bi-lingual homebuyer education program in the Allegheny County in partnership with PNC Bank, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Congratulations to the following 2009 NNA Excellence Awards Recipients!

About National NeighborWorks® Association (NNA)

NNA is the national association of NeighborWorks® organizations (NWOs) that advocate for better neighborhoods and housing for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. Our members use Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (d/b/a NeighborWorks® America) funds to leverage private dollars in order to create new homeowners, revitalize distressed communities, and build single family and multi-family housing for low- to moderate-income families in urban and rural communities throughout the country.

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