



Oregon
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor



Housing and Community Services

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News Release

October 15, 2008

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Housing and service advocates recognized for excellence

(Salem) – Oregon Housing and Community Services has honored exceptional housing and community service partners as it does each year.

“These awards count,” said Victor Merced, the state agency’s director. “They honor incredible individuals, programs and developments that make Oregon’s neighborhoods, towns and communities exceptional places to work and live.”

The 2008 Excellence Award recipients were recognized for their ongoing work to increase the availability or preservation of affordable housing and supportive services necessary for lower-income Oregonians to succeed and thrive. The honors were bestowed October 6 during the 2008 Oregon Housing and Community Services Conference in Salem, attended by more than 600 housing and community service professionals from throughout the state.

Recipients of the 2008 Excellence Awards are:

- Best New Affordable Housing of the Year:
 - **Leander Court Apartments, Portland.**
- Partner of the Year:
 - **Richard Harris, executive director, Central City Concern, Portland.**
- Lender of the Year:
 - **David Castricano, U.S. Bank, Portland.**
- Commitment to Special Needs Housing (Large Developments):
 - **Innovative Housing, Inc., Portland.**

- Commitment to Special Needs Housing (Individuals and Small Developments):
 - **David's House, Roseburg.**
- Preservation of Affordable Housing:
 - **Raquel Guglielmetti, Northwest Real Estate Capital Corp., Boise, Idaho.**
- Management Company of the Year:
 - **Allison Brown of Princeton Property Management, Cornelius.**
- Tenant Services of the Year:
 - **REACH Community Development Resident Services Program, Portland.**
- Community-Based Organization of the Year:
 - **Community Action of Washington County, Hillsboro.**

This year, OHCS presented two Director's Choice Awards – to individuals and organizations demonstrating a consistent record of success in bringing significant change to an area. Recipients were:

- **Columbia County Flood Relief, Vernonia.**
- **Vicki Skryha, former manager, Housing and Homeless Services, Oregon Department of Human Services, Salem.**

Oregon Housing and Community Services also recognized 33 individuals and organizations nominated for the 2008 awards.

In addition to the OHCS Excellence Awards, the Community Action Partnership of Oregon presented four awards. For more information on the CAPO awards, contact Tom Clancey-Burns at 503-485-8963.

Visit www.oregon.gov/OHCS/SAS_ExcellenceAwards.shtml for additional information surrounding the Excellence Award Program as well as information on the award recipients.

Oregon Housing and Community Services is the state's housing finance agency and community services program administrator. The department provides financial and program support to create and preserve opportunities for quality, affordable housing serving Oregonians of lower and moderate income, and administers federal and state antipoverty, homeless, energy assistance and community service programs.

The OHCS mission is to "Provide leadership that enables Oregonians to gain housing, become self-sufficient and achieve prosperity." For more information, click on www.ohcs.oregon.gov. –30–