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Promoting Quality Affordable Housing and Community
Development Throughout San Diego County

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Embargoed Until Thursday, June 12, 7 p.m.

Affordable Housing Awards Presented To Best Projects, Industry Standouts

San Diego – Awards were presented for Projects of the Year and to individual advocates and others who made exceptional contributions to affordable housing and community development in the past year. The presentations were made at the San Diego Housing Federation’s 13th Annual Affordable Housing Awards event tonight.

The award for Best Project of the Year-Over 50 units went to **Auburn Park Apartments, a City Heights** development of the Affirmed Housing Group. The 69 apartments are rented to very low and low income residents. The design, by Studio E Architects, incorporates local architectural styles found along University Avenue. As part of the development, Affirmed was required to include a 25,000 sq.ft. public park with plazas, benches, barbecue area, and playing area for recreational use by the community. They were also required to restore the Auburn Branch of the Chollas Creek which is within the project’s boundaries.

The Best Project of the Year – Fewer than 50 units was given to **Seniors on Broadway, a Chula Vista** development of the MAAC Project. The 42-home apartment community is home to low income seniors. The development occurred on land leased from the Chula Vista Elementary School District. Residents of Seniors on Broadway partner with students at the adjacent charter school for a “Generations Together” program providing an intergenerational exchange.

A “Very Special Award” was presented to **SOLARA, a Poway** development of Community HousingWorks for its use of solar power to provide 100% of the energy needs for the community. Community HousingWorks was recognized for being a trendsetter and for the exceptional effort it took to be the first apartment community in the nation to provide full solar power. They were acknowledged for sharing monthly energy cost savings with low-income SOLARA residents. Many “green” features and conservation techniques mark the project.

The Federation’s first Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to **Evan Becker**, managing principal of **Red Capital Group’s** San Diego Office. Becker was recognized for his years of exceptional and committed public and private service to the affordable housing industry and for his dedication to providing shelter for the region’s lowest income residents.

(more)

Advocating for Affordable Homes in San Diego County Since 1990

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Awards were also made to **Del Sol Apartments, San Diego**, for Wakeland Housing and Development's rehabilitation of the 93-unit apartment community for low income families. Located in the Nestor community, the project had been in serious disrepair and crime-ridden. Wakeland faced many challenges in renovating the project, adding a community center, temporarily relocating residents, and retaining Section 8 rent-levels for residents.

Serenity Village, Escondido, received the award for Housing Project of the Year – Special Needs for its cluster of single family homes for low income adult women and their children. The transitional housing was developed by North County Serenity House to support “graduates” of their drug and alcohol abuse recovery program.

Three Resident Services Coordinators were honored for their exceptional service and caring for residents. They are **Louise Fowler**, Alabama Manor, **Community HousingWorks**; **Willy Gloria**, San Martin de Porres, **the MAAC Project**; and **Johana Rodriguez**, five **Wakeland Housing and Development** communities in South County.

Rodriguez Associates Architects and Planners were named the year's Outstanding Development Partner for their award-winning affordable housing designs that create a sense of community.

Two awards were presented to those in the public sector. The Outstanding Local Government Award went to the **City of Coronado** for their support in developing the first two new affordable housing communities in the city. The John Craven Memorial Award was given to **Dr. Piedad Garcia**, Assistant Deputy Director for the San Diego County Mental Health Department, for her advocacy in support of new county housing programs for the mentally ill.

The **SDG&E** Energy Efficiency Award was given to the MAAC Project's Healthy Homes and Services program. It provided weatherization services to 1,840 households in 2007. The result was reduced heating and cooling costs by improving the energy efficiency of homes and creating healthier and safer living environments for the residents.

The Outstanding Local Advocate Award went to the San Diego County Mental Health Housing Council of the advisory group's support of creating “housing first” for the homeless mentally ill. The group participated in the development of the county's housing plan for the mentally ill and in advocating for reliable funding to house those receiving services in the county's Full Service Partnerships.

The U.S. Department of Housing Development (HUD)'s **Myrna B. Pascual and the Housing Opportunities Collaborative** were recognized for establishing HOME Clinics and workshops for distressed homeowners facing foreclosure. Over 1,400 households have been counseled through more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service from attorneys, realtors, mortgage brokers and others recruited by Myrna and coordinated by her and other Collaborative members.

The event was attended by 275 people at the Handlery Hotel in Mission Valley.

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Photos available by calling 619-239-6693