

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 2, 2005

Community Development Partners Receive State Recognition

Awardees in Akron, Cleveland, Columbus, Bellefontaine & Painesville

The Ohio Community Development Corporation (CDC) Association recognized outstanding nonprofit agencies, projects and staff at their 21st annual conference in Columbus in November. The annual awards recognize exemplary contributions over the past year to the field of community-based development.

“Ohio’s community development corporations play an essential role in building healthy communities at the local level,” said Ohio CDC Association Executive Director Patricia Barnes. “The organizations and people recognized through this year’s awards exemplify how local CDCs are truly improving the lives of low- and moderate-income individuals.”

Project of the Year

Middlebury Centre, East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation (Akron)

Middlebury Centre is a 67,000-foot shopping plaza at a former brownfield site in Akron, Ohio. The project brings grocery and other shopping and services directly into a neighborhood community, generating 200 jobs. The project involves a partnership among many organizations, most notably East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation, the City of Akron, the Ohio Community Development Finance Fund and First Merit bank.

Community Development Corporation of the Year

Famicos Foundation (Cleveland)

As one of the oldest and largest community development corporations in the City of Cleveland, Famicos Foundation has a 36-year history of providing services and housing in the Glenville and Hough neighborhoods. Their work includes providing affordable housing, neighborhood revitalization, social services, transportation, health services, after-school programming, financial management training and market-rate housing. Through its history, the organization has invested nearly \$50 million in the neighborhood and its residents.

Partner of the Year

Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (statewide organization located in Columbus)

Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH) is a statewide nonprofit corporation that works with private and public developers to create affordable housing opportunities. OCCH connects projects with resources by raising capital for investment, providing technical assistance, and assisting with project development and asset management, primarily in conjunction with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program. OCCH has raised \$800 million in corporate equity creating more than 14,000 units of affordable housing. OCCH was recognized for providing its partners, many of which are small community development corporations, with unparalleled service and support.

Staff Member of the Year

Carol Anderson, Program Manager, Lake Communities Community Development Corporation (Painesville – Lake County)

As Lake Communities CDC program manager, Carol Anderson lead the organization's successful universal design program, resulting in Lake Communities building five universal design homes in 2005 and laying the groundwork for half of Lake Communities homes in 2006 to be universally designed. She developed a Home Repair program for low-income seniors and elderly; and completed state grant applications resulting in \$700,000 in funding and assisting 24 persons with downpayment assistance. Ms. Anderson was recognized for her passion and dedication.

Stephanie J. Bevens Advocacy Award

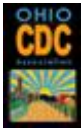
Laura Lucas, Logan-Belle HAND and Logan Metropolitan Housing Authority (Bellevue)

Laura Lucas is executive director of Logan Belle HAND and economic development and community relations director for Logan Metropolitan Housing Authority. Through her 13-year career with Logan MHA, Ms. Lucas has established the Logan Microenterprise Training and Loan Program; Logan IDA program; Section 8 Family Self-Sufficiency Program; Positive Human Development after-school program; and Money Matters Financial Education & Homebuyer Education. Ms. Lucas is a strong community advocate for entrepreneurial spirit and an innovator for new programs.

The Stephanie J. Bevens award was created in memory of Ms. Bevens, business development director of Pike County Community Action Agency, who passed away earlier this year. Ms. Bevens was a long-time advocate for opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and was a leader in the development and management of microenterprise lending programs.

Ohio CDC Association is a statewide membership organization of community development corporations that engages in capacity-building, advocacy and public policy development that fosters socially and economically healthy communities.

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