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CCEH Awards to Recognize Regional Efforts in Addressing Homelessness

PORTLAND, OREGON – JULY 15, 2010 – The Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness (CCEH) is recognizing the efforts of individuals and organizations working to address homelessness in Multnomah County, at the third annual 2010 CCEH Achievement Awards.

CCEH leads the ongoing community planning for the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County. The Portland Housing Bureau is among more than 45 member groups representing a broad range of stakeholders dedicated to ending homelessness, faith groups, residents, formerly homeless individuals and other community representatives. The CCEH Achievement Awards recognize the leadership and dedication of individuals and organizations, and the unique roles that each play in addressing and ending homelessness in the Portland area. Award recipients were selected based their commitment, compassion, collaborative-spirit and leadership in ending homelessness.

This year's awardees in the "individual" category include:

- John Atten, Housing Compliance & Occupancy Department, Central City Concern
- Edith Ayon, Daybreak Shelter Network Coordinator, Human Solutions Inc.
- Pastor Steve Kimes, Founder and Director, Anawim Christian Community
- Rick Lesniak, Board Director, Home Builders Foundation
- Reverend Kate Lore, Social Justice Minister, First Unitarian Church of Portland
- Tiffany Tucker, Program Director, Insight Teen Parent Program

Two programs are also being recognized: Project Respond's Intensive Homeless Outreach Program (IHOP), Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare and the Salvation Army Female Emergency Shelter Resident Assistant Team (SAFES).

The Project Respond IHOP team is comprised of four individuals who build trusting relationships with some of Portland's most vulnerable and chronically homeless individuals – those who are unsheltered and have severe and persistent mental health issues. The team works closely with individuals to connect them to housing and support services. Over the past year, the team has reached more than 700 unsheltered individuals with mental illness, connecting them to stable housing, health care and other support services.

The Salvation Army Resident Assistant Team is an integral part in creating a hopeful, safe and optimistic environment for women staying at SAFES. In the past year, SAFES has provided overnight shelter to more than 270 women and day services to more than 400. The team has helped place 54 women into permanent housing and another 24 into transitional housing.

The CCEH awards ceremony will be held from 4-5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. Awards will be presented by Nick Fish, City of Portland Housing Commissioner; Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County Commissioner; and Lio Alaalatoa, Lead Outreach Worker for JOIN, and recipient of a 2009 CCEH Achievement Award.

Click here to read more about CCEH: <http://www.portlandonline.com/phb/CCEH>

About the Portland Housing Bureau

The Portland Housing Bureau's mission is to create home for Portlanders by influencing the larger livability agenda, and delivering housing investments and services where the market leaves voids. For more information about PHB visit www.portlandoregon.gov/phb