

NDHFA RECOGNIZES CHAMPIONS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

BISMARCK – The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency (NDHFA) recognized six housing partners as Champions of Affordable Housing at the 2005 Statewide Housing Conference.

“Without the participating lenders, the real estate community, housing developers and property managers, NDHFA would not have realized a single mortgage loan or have been able to provide affordable rental housing for a family in need,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson who presented the awards on behalf of the Industrial Commission.

Through unique public-private partnerships with the lending and real estate community, NDHFA has helped almost 27,000 North Dakota families realize the dream of owning their first home. The agency has also been instrumental in the development of 4,200 rental units, and has provided for the continued availability of safe and decent low-income apartments by providing administrative services for thousands of HUD Section 8 apartments.

Receiving Lender Awards were:

- **State Bank & Trust**, the largest privately owned banking organization in North Dakota, with eight full service banks and mortgage and loan offices in four additional locations; and
- **Bremer Bank** in Fargo, part of the Bremer Financial Services Company, which serves communities in three states through more than 100 locations; and
- **Western Cooperative Credit Union**, a not-for-profit financial cooperative with offices in Williston and Dickinson; and
- **Security First Bank of North Dakota**, a locally owned, full service, community bank located in four cities in North Dakota.

“In 2004, participating lenders, working in partnership with NDHFA, originated or provided 1,340 first-time homebuyer loans totaling more than \$112 million,” said Johnson. “An additional \$1.4 million in loans and grants was divided among 42 percent of those homebuyers for down payment and closing cost assistance.”

The lender awards are based on participation in the NDHFA's homeownership programs and on participation in locally sponsored affordable housing projects and events.

Library Square, an apartment community located in downtown Mandan, received the Housing Production Award, which recognizes the development of affordable housing. The \$5 million complex was designed to increase the supply of affordable housing and stimulate revitalization efforts in downtown Mandan.

Gary Stenson, a Devils Lake native, was recognized with a Leadership Award for his years of affordable housing development. As principal owner of MetroPlains Development, LLC, Stenson and his partners have developed and currently manage more than 1,100 affordable housing units in North Dakota.

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The Champion of Affordable Housing awards program began in 1995 with annual presentations to lenders and real estate agents based primarily on loan production within NDHFA Home Mortgage Finance programs. Leadership and housing production awards were added in 2001. Real Estate Champion Awards are presented at the industry's annual conference in September.

The Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven, who serves as chairman, Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson and Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, oversees the NDHFA.

For more information about the Champion of Affordable Housing awards or other NDHFA programs, contact the agency at 701-328-8080, 800-292-8621, 800-366-6888 (TTY) or visit us online at www.ndhfa.org. Photos are available from the awards presentation and can be provided by contacting the NDHFA.

-30-

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