



2015 Partners in Housing Awards Celebration

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Rhode Island Housing created the Partners in Housing Awards to honor members of the housing community who demonstrate outstanding commitment and achievement in creating strong communities with good homes for all Rhode Islanders. The winners have been instrumental in enhancing the livability of existing homes; the development of new healthy and attractive ones; or the creation and administration of programs in response to the housing needs of the state's residents. They understand that smart investments in housing create jobs and stimulate economic development while meeting the housing needs of the state's growing and changing population. Working together, Rhode Island Housing and our partners promote healthy families, healthy communities and a healthy Rhode Island.

Agenda

Welcoming Remarks

Barbara Fields

Executive Director, Rhode Island Housing

Welcoming Remarks

Governor Gina Raimondo

Awards Presentation

Governor Gina Raimondo

Barbara Fields

Executive Director, Rhode Island Housing



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Award Winners



Senator Juan Pichardo

Housing Champion

The 2015 Partners in Housing Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated ongoing, committed leadership in addressing the housing needs of Rhode Islanders.

Senator Pichardo has been a strong voice for increasing the supply of quality housing within the financial reach of Rhode Islanders since arriving in the Senate in 2003 representing the 2nd Senatorial district in Providence. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government, he has brought attention to the need for greater investment in housing, holding a joint hearing with Senate Finance to learn about the housing programs our neighboring states are supporting, and traveling around the State to see the housing challenges facing Rhode Island's communities. In the current session, he is sponsoring legislation to increase to \$100 million the housing bond included in Governor Raimondo's Fiscal Year 2017 budget, which will provide critical resources for housing development and preservation.

Senator Pichardo has also been a leader on issues related to predatory lending and housing foreclosures. He has shown the way on health-disparity and minority concerns and on economic development, especially along Main streets. Senator Pichardo is the first Latino elected to a Senate seat in the State of Rhode Island and the first Dominican American elected to a state Senate seat in the United States.



Representative Cale Keable

Housing Champion

The 2015 Partners in Housing Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated ongoing, committed leadership in addressing the housing needs of all Rhode Islanders.

Representative Keable, who has served as the State Representative for District 47 in Burrillville and Glocester since 2011, is a strong supporter of housing development. Representative Keable has led the way in welcoming housing development that is revitalizing the villages of Harrisville and Pascoag in Burrillville. Over the past five years, Rhode Island Housing has financed the development of 148 homes in Burrillville, which, when completed, will push the town past its 10% affordable housing goal. The town's commitment to meeting the housing needs of its residents, and Representative Keable's leadership role in supporting that work, has made the town a model for other rural communities.

As Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Representative Keable has supported fair and equitable access to housing for Rhode Islanders. His support for increased housing opportunities demonstrates an understanding of the important role housing plays in the State's economy.

Representative Keable has promoted numerous initiatives to improve the state's business and job climate, including his 2012 co-sponsorship of a law that requires an assessment of all regulations impacting small businesses. He has also been a leader for modernizing the state's voting system and strengthening oversight of the campaign finance system.



Coastway Community Bank

Participating Lender

The Participating Lender award recognizes mortgage lenders who have gone above and beyond to ensure that Rhode Islanders can buy and keep good-quality, safe homes that are within their financial reach.

With the leadership of Senior Vice President Suzanne Fry, Coastway Community Bank originated 199 Rhode Island Housing first mortgages in 2015. In addition, 165 Rhode Islanders received FirstHomes tax credit certificates, the largest number since the program began. Such efforts have been critical in helping homebuyers obtain homes that meet their needs.

For almost a century, Coastway Community Bank has assisted Rhode Islanders with their financial needs and has helped thousands of families achieve their dreams of homeownership. Driven by the belief that stable homes can strengthen the fabric of the communities it serves, Coastway Community Bank has committed itself to productive work with partners and providing outstanding customer service.



Joseph A. Caffey

Lifetime Achievement

The Lifetime Achievement Award, given out only six times since 1989, goes to a Rhode Islander who has consistently demonstrated great compassion and commitment to the goal of providing good homes for Rhode Islanders.

Joseph A. Caffey, who before his passing served as the President and CEO of Omni Development Corporation since 1991, was a longtime leader in Rhode Island's community development and African-American communities. Joe had an unyielding commitment to providing housing opportunities for Rhode Islanders, particularly in Providence. In implementing his vision for meeting the community's housing needs, Joe understood that providing decent housing was only part of the work. During his time at Omni Development, Joe worked to better the lives of residents by partnering with community organizations to provide the supports residents needed to remain stably housed and improve their economic situation.

There was no challenge too big for Joe. In 2010 Omni joined with Winn Development to redevelop Medina Village, a blighted 83 unit family development in Providence's West End. Joe worked with residents to transform the development into Phoenix Apartments- a safe and attractive development that is now an asset to the neighborhood. Joe was also a champion for veterans. He led the redevelopment of two properties in Providence, which combined provide permanent supportive housing for 29 homeless veterans.

Joe was known not only throughout the city and state but also nationally, serving as President of the National Leased Housing Association based in Washington, DC. Wherever he was, Joe carried himself with a grace and style that was all his own. His work to meet the housing needs of Rhode Island's most vulnerable residents is a fundamental part of his legacy, and will serve as an inspiration to all of us for many years to come.