



Tenants to Homeowners, Inc.
The Lawrence Community Housing Trust Program
2518 Ridge Ct. Ste 209 – 842-5494 – FAX 842-7570
www.tenants-to-homeowners.org

News Release

For Immediate Release

August 19, 2008

Contact: Rebecca Buford, Executive Director. Cell: (785) 760-2058 E-mail: rbufordefird@yahoo.com

“Best of the Best” title awarded to the first Kansas CLT for use of the Housing Trust model

Monday, August 12, at the 2008 HUD Spotlight on Excellence Conference, Tenants to Homeowners, Inc. (TTH) was recognized with a “Best of the Best” award for innovative use of the Housing Trust model in the KC HUD Regional office (KS and MO).

TTH’s newest 11 single family development at Homewood Gardens was awarded this honor through a vote of its peers as one of the most innovative affordable housing developments in the region. The Spotlight on Excellence conference invites those that use federal money to build affordable housing to present their developments and highlight best practice ideas. Homewood Gardens was considered a best practice because of its Energy Star certification, the level of affordability of the homes, and the use of the housing trust model to retain all of the federal subsidy for future affordable housing.

TTH is the first CLT in the state of Kansas and much of the Midwest. We hope that with this award and recognition, we may be able to share the CLT model with other communities in Kansas and Missouri. We are pleased to announce that we have already shared our story with the city of Springfield, MO, and we have heard that they will soon join us in using the CLT model. We hope to make a regional impact on housing in the Midwest by showing how the model can work in areas where, although land is less expensive than it is on the coasts, a significant affordability gap still exists between what housing costs and what working families can afford. It is a truly unfamiliar concept to this part of the country, but we have received many calls regarding interest in using this model for efficient use of every hard fought subsidy dollar.

Tenants to Homeowners, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and Lawrence’s only Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO). The organization became incorporated in 1992 and has since helped 306 families with low and moderate incomes purchase their first homes in Lawrence. After adopting the CLT model of shared equity homeownership in 2005, we currently steward 28 homes in trust, with 36 more in the project development pipeline at four different sites. TTH also manages affordable rental housing and is looking at creating long term rental housing with an equity option for those on a fixed income.



From left: Margene Swarts and Larry Hamm, city of Lawrence, Theresa Porter, HUD, Tony Hoch and Lesley Rigney, city of Lawrence. Front: Rebecca Buford (left) and Hayley Travis, TTH.

