



## Press Release

Housing Authority Wins National Merit Award for FWHS Transforms Historic Knights of Pythias Hall.

Washington, D.C. (July 14, 2016) - The Fort Worth Housing Solutions has been chosen as a recipient of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Awards of Merit: Community Revitalization for FWHS Transforms Historic Knights of Pythias Hall. The official presentation of the award will take place in Portland, Ore. on July 15 during NAHRO's Summer Conference.

"The NAHRO Awards of Merit Program was created to give national recognition to NAHRO Member organizations that have found innovative ways of making a difference in the communities and the lives of the people they serve" said, NAHRO President Steve Merritt.

The Knights of Pythias Hall in Fort Worth, was built in 1925 by the Key West Lodge of the Knights of Pythias. This African-American fraternal hall served as the lodge headquarters until 1947. Over the decades, the property became vacant and suffered from neglect. In 2007, a Fort Worth real estate firm purchased the property with the intent of redeveloping it, but plans to turn the site into condos fell through. In 2011, Fort Worth Housing Solutions (FWHS) acquired the 87-year-old building and rehabilitated the historic structure into eight affordable housing units, and constructed an additional ten units as well.

"This program celebrates achievement and honors the work that our members do each and every day to ensure a safe and affordable place to call home. Showcasing the efforts of housing agencies and agency officials through NAHRO's Awards of Merit" said, NAHRO Acting CEO John Bohm.

"We hope that the general public, community leaders, private industry and government itself will become inspired to reform and enhance existing housing and community development programs and in addition create new ground-breaking programs and services to meet the housing needs our nation's most vulnerable citizens."

The 2016 NAHRO Awards of Merit recognize outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs in five categories. *Administrative Innovation* recognizes innovative methods in areas such as maintenance, community relations, and interagency cooperation. *Program Innovation — Affordable Housing* includes special programs for homeownership, public/private partnerships, and innovative financing. *Program Innovation — Community Revitalization* includes innovative use of programs in areas such as economic development, neighborhood preservation, and creative financing. *Program Innovation — Resident and Client Services* includes innovative use of programs such as special activities for children, families, and the elderly, anti-drug programs, social services, and self-sufficiency. *Project Design* includes efforts such as new housing design, housing modernization, enduring design, and landscape design.

The NAHRO Awards of Merit Program was created to give national recognition to NAHRO housing and community development member organizations that have found innovative ways of making a difference



## Press Release

in the communities and the lives of the people they serve. Established in 1989, the NAHRO Award of Merit program has honored more than 6,000 programs.

See NAHRO's 2016 Agency Awards of Merit in Housing and Community Development.

[http://www.nahro.org/sites/default/files/searchable/NAHRO\\_2016\\_AwardsBooklet\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nahro.org/sites/default/files/searchable/NAHRO_2016_AwardsBooklet_FINAL.pdf)

--

### About NAHRO

NAHRO, established in 1933, is a membership organization of 20,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income. NAHRO's membership administers more than 3 million housing units for 7.6 million people.

###