



ADVANCING SAFE AND HEALTHY HOUSING

Reception and Awards Ceremony

Sponsored by

The Kresge Foundation and the
National Center for Healthy Housing

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

Music City Center • Room 104 • Nashville, TN

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION invests in safe and healthy housing through several interconnected initiatives, including the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition, the Advancing Safe and Healthy Homes Initiative, and the Health and Housing Funders' Forum. We welcome you to join us for an invitational reception and awards ceremony showcasing these initiatives and honoring those at the front lines of health and housing programs and policy.



Advancing Safe and Healthy Homes for
Children and Families Initiative
Sponsored by The Kresge Foundation



**Health and Housing
Funders' Forum**

The *National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition* (NSHHC) is a collaborative of 140 organizations working to improve housing conditions nationwide through education and outreach. Promotes policies for safe and healthy housing in the United States, with special emphasis on those who are impacted disproportionately.

NSHHC recognizes leaders in the field via the Healthy Homes Champion Awards. The purpose of the awards is to honor individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to improving the health and safety of housing and families as indicated by:

- Innovative and effective partnerships, programs, tools, strategies, research, and policies.
- Work across multiple disciplines, such as housing, public health, energy efficiency, environment, and community development.
- Focus on groups and communities disproportionately impacted by unhealthy housing conditions, including low-income individuals and families, people of color, children, and the elderly.
- Change at local, state, national, or international levels through programmatic or policy changes, advocacy, or leadership.



Children play at Project Row Houses. Co-founder Rick Lowe has referred to the development – residents included – as a “social sculpture.”

HEALTHY HOMES CHAMPION AWARDS

Alameda County Healthy Homes Department

With a 22-year history of addressing health hazards in the home, the Alameda County Healthy Homes Department (ACHHD) has successfully case managed over 4,500 children with lead poisoning or asthma, remediated asthma triggers and/or lead hazards in over 2,200 homes, conducted housing interventions that have resulted in a 57-percent reduction in asthma-related hospitalizations, and trained more the 2,150 individuals in lead-safe work practices and healthy homes principles. The ACHHD also leads a 45-member Healthy Homes Alliance in advancing local housing policy. The ACHHD's collaborative multidisciplinary approach exemplifies what is needed to make significant and lasting change.

Accepting the award: Maricela Narvaez-Foster, Director

Boston Inspectional Services Department

In December 2012, the City of Boston passed the Rental Inspection Ordinance requiring private rental units to be registered annually and inspected. This proactive housing policy will improve public health for Boston residents by protecting tenants from housing conditions. The ordinance also works to remove the burden from the tenant to have to request the necessary repairs of their landlord. The Boston Inspection Services Department (ISD) conducts over 10,000 inspection complaints annually in communities of Boston with the most distressed housing, homes plagued with pest infestations, mold, lead, poor ventilation, and with a variety of unsafe conditions. Residents living in these homes are the most vulnerable populations, consistently having higher rates of asthma, respiratory problems, and lead poisoning. ISD is recognized for their proactive efforts to create safe and healthy housing for all Boston's residents.

Accepting the award: Indira Alvarez, Assistant Commissioner

Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service

The Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, a neighborhood-based nonprofit organization founded in 1958, works with the people of East Harlem, New York to address the physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual dimensions of family health. Its home- and center-based programs are designed to empower those who are most vulnerable and who have least access to the basic necessities of life, in the conviction that the entire community grows when individuals and families are affirmed in their own dignity.

Accepting the award: Ray Lopez, Director of Environmental Health and Family Asthma Program

Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance

Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance has grown into one of Omaha's most innovative and productive nonprofits in its almost eight years of existence. OHKA currently assists over 300 families each year through healthy home visits, reaches thousands of individuals through community-wide education, and has helped 70 families make their homes greener, safer, and healthier in the past year. OHKA has raised over \$7 million to advance greener, safer, and healthier homes in Omaha; many of those dollars have gone to partnering organizations to build a community-wide infrastructure that supports healthy housing. In 2013, OHKA received the Friend of the Environment Award from Earth Day Omaha and in 2014 is holding the first Healthy Housing Summit in Omaha to educate community leaders on healthy homes.

Accepting the award: Kara Eastman Henner, Executive Director

DENNIS LIVINGSTON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL ORGANIZING

Laura Brion has demonstrated exceptional talent and effectiveness as a community organizer with the Childhood Lead Action Project. Last year, the legislative campaign to save Rhode Island's Healthy Housing and Lead Poisoning Prevention Program was a success when the RI legislature included funding in the 2014 budget to compensate partially for the loss of CDC funds. Laura mobilized a statewide campaign including a launching a postcard campaign, organizing legislative leadership call-in days, preparing witnesses to testify at legislative hearings, holding constituent meetings with key legislators, and raising awareness of the campaign through media relations. Laura spearheaded an effort to persuade the city of Providence to require proof of lead-safe certification for contractors working on older homes. She also led efforts to ensure the enforcement of Rhode Island's Lead Hazard Mitigation Act, making Providence the first municipality in Rhode Island to comply with the law. Her tenacity, willingness to "speak truth to power," and boundless energy make her a deserving recipient of the award offered by the NSHHC in Dennis Livingston's memory.

The *Advancing Safe and Healthy Homes for Children and Families Initiative* (ASHHI) is a national program sponsored by The Kresge Foundation to address health issues that derive — all or in part — from in-home environmental hazards. The program engages organizations at the federal, state, and local levels and accelerates the diffusion of healthy home models to improve the health of vulnerable populations across the nation.

Current ASHHI sites are:



Alameda County Community Development Agency,
Healthy Homes Department, Alameda County, California



St. John's Well Child and Family Center/Esperanza
Community Housing/Strategic Actions for a Just
Economy, Los Angeles, California



Greensboro Housing Coalition,
Greensboro, North Carolina



ClearCorps Detroit, Detroit, Michigan



Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance, Omaha, Nebraska



City of Newark Department of Child and Family
Well-Being, Newark, New Jersey

Please stop by the exhibits of several of the sites tonight to learn about their innovative practices and inspiring results.

The *Health and Housing Funders' Forum* fosters collaboration among philanthropic organizations to make a significant impact in the area of healthy housing and healthy communities. The Funders' Forum seeks to re-envision housing so that it leads to better health for vulnerable populations. The participants of the Funders' Forum serve as ambassadors in their spheres of influence--creating a multidisciplinary ripple effect in areas such as health equity, sustainability, housing and community development, and public health.



The Funders' Forum is a non-dues paying collaborative, which provides its members with a range of opportunities, tools, and resources, including for example, webinars, peer networking, and conferences.

The Funders' Forum was founded by The Kresge Foundation and the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH) in 2009 to align philanthropic funding plans and priorities in the housing and health space. The idea for the Funders' Forum stemmed from the 2009 National Healthy Housing Policy Summit where several philanthropic partners saw the value of partnering to advance investment in healthy and safe housing. A subsequent meeting in February 2010 brought together many of these leaders, where the group identified a set of needs and opportunities for philanthropy to meet them.

EVENT SPONSORS



National Center for Healthy Housing

The *National Center for Healthy Housing* (NCHH) is the preeminent national nonprofit dedicated to creating safe and healthy housing for America's families. It has trained over 35,000 individuals in lead-safe and healthy housing practices since 2005, and its research provides the scientific basis for major federal policies and programs. NCHH develops scientifically valid and practical strategies to make homes safe from hazards and to protect low-income families at highest risk. You can follow NCHH on Twitter @nchh or become a fan at Facebook.com/HealthyHousing.

THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

The Kresge Foundation is a \$3 billion private national foundation headquartered in metropolitan Detroit, in the suburban community of Troy, that works to expand opportunities in America's cities through grantmaking and investing in arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services, community development, and our place-based efforts in Detroit.

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