

For Immediate Release: November 12, 2014

Boulder Housing Partners Honors Four Partner Awards

The BHP Partnership Awards program recognizes the efforts of individuals, businesses, corporate partners, and non-profit and governmental agencies for their support of BHP and its mission. The November award winners include:

Volunteer Community Partner: First Presbyterian Church

The Little Free Libraries (LFLs) recently installed at Diagonal Court and Kalmia are a gift from the First Presbyterian Church of Boulder and Columbine Elementary and their KIDSHOPE mentor partnership. Members of the church built, decorated, installed the libraries, and donated books, which adults and children may borrow or keep. The purpose of the Little Free Library is to foster a sense of community while promoting literacy and a love of reading! We are grateful to Linda Overholser whose passion for education led her in 2004 to establish a KIDS HOPE USA partnership in Boulder, which led to the First Presbyterian Church to start a mentoring program Columbine Elementary School. In 2012 after a little library was installed at Columbine, the principal of the school recommended BHP as a partner site for the establishment of two little libraries: one at Diagonal Court and one at Kalmia. Before her death, Linda collected hundreds of books and shared her desire with others at the church to see the libraries installed at BHP sites. We are grateful to Linda, Shelley Emerick who coordinated the installation and Keith Vandegrift who built the libraries, and to all other members of the First Presbyterian Church who worked to make the libraries a reality.

Non-Profit Partner: AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer Program

For the past three years, Boulder Housing Partners and the Denver office of the Corporation for National Community Service have fostered a significant partnership with the federal anti-poverty program, AmeriCorps Vista. The focus of the Vista volunteer program is to support anti-poverty projects by building capacity; encouraging volunteer service; and generating the commitment of private sector resources. This volunteer program provides opportunities for individuals to work with organizations like BHP that bring people and communities out of poverty. The overall goal of the Boulder Housing Partners VISTA project is to increase the capacity and sustainability of BHPs' ability to provide high quality services to residents living in poverty. The VISTA program provides BHP with two full-time volunteers for 12 month periods who receive a stipend of just over \$1,000 a month. We are currently in our third year of the program and have worked with 6 different VISTA volunteers. Their accomplishments have significantly built BHP's capacity to enhance the quality of life for BHP customers. We are very grateful for all of the support the AmeriCorps Vista program has provided.

Individual Community Partner: Ken Wilson

Having just celebrated the grand opening of Lee Hill, this is an excellent time to recognize and thank some of the key people who helped us through a difficult entitlement process. Ken Wilson, in his role on the City Council, was a significant catalyst in encouraging his colleagues to support the development of 1175. In Council deliberation about the possibility of stopping the project, Ken was unwavering in his commitment to getting this project built and took the time to research minutes from prior Council meetings to remind his colleagues that they had previously been briefed about, and supported, the project. This research effort, combined with his calm and steady wisdom on the



matter of housing homeless people, helped turn the tide in favor of the project. Ken's courageous leadership on behalf of very vulnerable people in Boulder is deeply appreciated and award-worthy.

Community Partners: NOBO Library

BHP would like to acknowledge Danica Powell, Mo Rait and Antonia Gaona for their amazing efforts in helping to create the North Boulder Library. This was a long arduous task which took a couple of years to come to fruition. Danica represented BHP and lead the way through many negotiations with the City to get this partnership in place. Mo guided the process through the City administration at a time when the Library leadership was influx. Danica and Mo's guidance lead to City Council approving funding for the Library in October of 2013. Antonia was responsible for staffing and opening the NOBO Library space, which as we know, has been a huge success! Our gratitude goes out to all of them for helping to creating such a wonderful space here in North Boulder.

About Boulder Housing Partners: [Boulder Housing Partners](#) is the housing authority serving the City of Boulder since 1966. BHP builds, owns, and manages quality affordable housing for low and moderate-income Boulder residents, and helps those residents pursue successful, productive, and dignified lives. BHP is one of only 35 public housing authorities in the United States participating in the prestigious [Moving to Work](#) program, which encourages innovation by providing flexibility in the use of federal funds. Its Red Oak Park community recently won state, national and international awards for sustainability and affordable housing development.

