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NEWS RELEASE

ROOPH Awards Recognize 6 Organizations and People for their Outstanding Contributions in Housing and Homelessness.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Edmonton) – A crowd of close to 300 people assembled at the Westin Hotel in downtown Edmonton today to see the 2011 ROOPH Awards presented and to celebrate the great work being done to end homelessness in Edmonton. The 2011 ROOPH Award winners are:

The Larry Shaben Award for Outstanding Service in the Housing Sector: *Hope Hunter*
Partnerships for Success: *Boardwalk Rental Communities*
Excellence in Building Design: *ArtsHub118*
Exceptional Volunteerism in the Housing Sector - Individual: *Orest Myckan*
Exceptional Volunteerism in the Housing Sector - Group: *No Room in the Inn*
Outstanding Service for the Aboriginal Community: *Cheryl Whiskeyjack*

Background information on the winners is included following this release.

The audience also heard from a past ROOPH Award winner – Justin Lui, on behalf of the City of Edmonton Youth Council, and Richard Gow – a resident at the ROOPH Award-winning development Immigration Hall. They spoke to the importance of ending homelessness, and what these initiatives meant to them.

“It’s important to recognize the success our community is achieving towards ending homelessness” said Susan McGee, Executive Director of Homeward Trust Edmonton. “There are so many individuals and groups doing tremendous things, and this is a chance for us to come together and celebrate that. Ending homelessness is truly a community-wide effort, and our nominees and winners reflect that”.

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Homeward Trust is a community-based, comprehensive housing organization that provides leadership and resources towards ending homelessness in Edmonton. We fulfill our mandate by leading initiatives and programs, engaging community stakeholders and partners, conducting research, creating awareness and funding housing and support projects.

2011 ROOPH Award Winners

The Larry Shaben Award for Outstanding Leadership in the Housing Sector

Hope Hunter

First as a volunteer, then as Executive Director of Boyle Street Community Services, Hope touches the lives of many people in need. Throughout close to two decades leading Boyle Street, she developed partnerships such as Streetworks, the Inner City Youth Housing Project, and Inner City Connections. She continues her commitment as a member of Edmonton's Homeless Commission.

Partnerships for Success

Boardwalk Rental Communities

Boardwalk has come on board to support the effort to end homelessness. They have, to date, provided over 200 housing units scattered throughout Edmonton to participants in the housing first support program. Participants are charged a reduced rental rate, and Boardwalk works with community organizations to improve communications and understanding, and to facilitate educational opportunities in this area for its staff.

Excellence in Building Design

ArtsHub118

A flagship development in the revitalization of Alberta Avenue, ArtsHub 118 is a mixed use development providing affordable housing, and an art gallery and space at street level. It was made possible through the support and partnership of many community and government stakeholders.

Exceptional Volunteerism in the Housing Sector - Individual

Orest Myckan

Giving over 7,000 hours of his time, Orest has been a tireless volunteer for Habitat for Humanity since 1993. He is a crew leader on local build sites, and has also been involved in 16 overseas trips as well. Going beyond his role on site, Orest spends time recruiting and inspiring other volunteers for the organizations.

Exceptional Volunteerism in the Housing Sector - Group

No Room in the Inn

This initiative brings together about 55 congregations from 7 denominations to share their Christmas Eve offering with a selected provider of homes for people who are homeless or in need. Congregations also hear from the Committee and host organizations about homelessness, and how they can do more to help. \$20,000-\$61,000 has been raised each year, totaling over \$400,000 to date.



homeward trust
edmonton

opening doors. building hope.

Outstanding Service for the Aboriginal Community

Cheryl Whiskeyjack

Through leading the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, Cheryl has brought about sustainable change for individuals and families. This includes delivering a whole series of family and individual change focused programs including the Sacred Circle Family Intervention Program, the Healthy Families Home visitation Program, Coyote Kids and Pride, Employment programming, Parenting programs, an Aboriginal Parent Link Centre, Health promotion work and a number of cultural focused programs.

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