

November 22, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

Homeward Trust Edmonton and Community Celebrate National Housing Day

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Edmonton) – A crowd of over 200 people assembled at the Sutton Place Hotel in downtown Edmonton today to celebrate the 6th Annual National Housing Day Luncheon, and to recognize the groups and individuals who promote affordable housing throughout our community.

Mike Miller, director of supportive housing placement for UNITY of Greater New Orleans, presented a stirring keynote address titled, *From Abandoned Buildings to Affordable Homes*, where he discussed the housing challenges his team encountered during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and the difficulty of reaching the New Orleans homeless population dwelling in abandoned buildings.

Additionally, The Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, Government of Canada (via video recording); Susan Taylor, Assistant Deputy Minister, Family Violence Prevention and Homeless Supports Division, Ministry of Human Services and Don Iveson, City Councillor, Ward 10, brought greetings on behalf of the three orders of government.

“It is incredible to see the community come together to support the advancement of affordable housing in our community” said Susan McGee, Executive Director of Homeward Trust Edmonton. “Ending homelessness is a community-wide effort. With the strong leadership of government, the strength of our agencies and services sector, and the hard work of countless volunteers, we will achieve our goal of ending homelessness in 10 years”.

In addition to the 2011 National Housing Day Luncheon, Homeward Trust Edmonton and community partners hosted the 2011 Community Summit, which provided the opportunity for leaders in the housing and homelessness sector to share best practices and experiences with over 125 summit attendees.

For More Information:

Susan McGee
Executive Director
Homeward Trust Edmonton
smcgee@homewardtrust.ca
(780) 496-6035 or (780) 905-1232

Sarah Parker
Communications and Event Coordinator
Homeward Trust Edmonton
sparker@homewardtrust.ca
(780) 496-7290 or (780) 953-8486

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.