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Contact:
Rosalind Washington 488-0155 or
Karyn Kearney 329-2444

Neighborhood Development Foundation recognizes leadership in New Orleans neighborhood development

NEIGHBORHOOD ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

New Orleans, La. - The Neighborhood Development Foundation (NDF) today announced it will honor five individuals and organizations with the Neighborhood Achievement Awards at the annual House Party on March 26. The winners were selected by NDF for their outstanding accomplishments and contributions in neighborhood development by contributing to the growth, economic prosperity and vibrancy of New Orleans neighborhoods. "The heroes in the renewal of New Orleans are our neighborhood champions," said Fred Johnson, CEO of Neighborhood Development Foundation.

The Leadership Award – Mr. Henry Coaxum, Jr.

Mr. Henry L. Coaxum, Jr. is President of Coaxum Enterprises and owner/operator of seven McDonald's restaurants in the New Orleans area. Coaxum received the "Entrepreneur of the Year" award from the National Black Chamber of Commerce at its 15th Annual Convention in 2007.

The **Leadership Award** honors an individual or organization who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the development and growth of New Orleans neighborhoods. Candidates may be from the business or civic community, and must demonstrate success at bringing together neighborhood stakeholders.

Small Business of the Year Award – NOLA Copy and Print, LLC

Mr. Percy Marchand is the owner and operator of **NOLA Copy and Print, LLC**. Located in the Gentilly area, NOLA Copy and Print was one of the first businesses to return to the Gentilly community post Katrina.

The **Small Business of the Year Award** honors an entrepreneur whose business has significantly improved its neighborhood or demonstrated outstanding commitment to the community through offering new or enhanced products and services, generating new commercial activity, attracting new businesses to the area, or providing exceptional employment opportunities.

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Beautification – Hike for Katreena

Hike for Katreena has organized thousands of volunteers to plant over 8,700 trees throughout the New Orleans community. Connie Uddo is the Director of Hike for Katreena and the organization was founded by Monique Pilie.

The **Neighborhood Beautification Award** recognizes an individual, business or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to enhancing the look and feel of a neighborhood.

Development – Columbia Parc at the Bayou District

Columbia Parc at the Bayou District, directed by the partnership of nonprofit Bayou District Foundation with Columbia Residential and the Housing Authority of New Orleans has transformed the former St. Bernard Housing Development into one of the most successful post Katrina rebuilding projects in Louisiana.

The **Development Award** honors a business or organization that has completed a new real estate development or adaptive use project that has delivered tangible benefits for the neighborhood, such as greater employment opportunities, neighborhood revitalization and economic or cultural activity.

NDF Enterprise Founders Award – Gulf Coast Housing Partnership

Gulf Coast Housing Partnership, since its creation in 2006, has provided capacity-building support and real estate development services through an innovative “production in partnership” model that has significantly impacted neighborhood development in New Orleans. To date, Gulf Coast Housing Partnership has completed 575 units of affordable housing, leveraging over \$70 million in community reinvestment in the city of New Orleans. GCHP enters 2011 with an additional 305 units of affordable housing in the New Orleans production pipeline, budgeted at \$54.5 million.

The **Founders Award** is bestowed upon an individual or a group that has supported the mission of NDF. This recipient has committed resources to assist NDF in preparing families in New Orleans to successfully purchase and maintain their homes. The Founders Award honors an individual or group who has provided significant and sustaining support to NDF.

Neighborhood Development Foundation (NDF) is one of New Orleans' greatest success stories. NDF was established in September 1986 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with seed money provided through the John M. and Holley Pavy DeBlois Foundation, an organization founded on the belief that decent affordable housing is essential to the physical and emotional health, productivity, and self-esteem of an individual. Over the past 25 years the Neighborhood Development Foundation has created 2,500 aspiring homeowners. With a dedicated staff and a best-practice training program, NDF converts life-long renters with modest resources and ready houses into entire neighborhoods of new homeowners.

For more information visit: ndf-neworleans.org

