



The Home Front

The strength of a nation lies in the homes of its people.

Abraham Lincoln

HOUSING TRUST FUND OF JOHNSON COUNTY

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WELCOME TO *The Home Front!* This quarterly publication by the Housing Trust Fund will provide brief summaries of current activities of the Trust Fund as well as updates on other housing related activities in Johnson County. Our goal is to have the next issue available electronically.

Is another newsletter necessary? We at the Housing Trust Fund hope to address several needs. First, a housing trust fund is a public investment. Our funding comes from a variety of public and private sources. If the public does not value and support the work of the Trust

Fund, our impact will be limited. We're a relatively new organization and housing trust funds are a new concept for many people.

We have made a lot of progress in two years and we want people to know both what we have done and what the potential is for an effective, adequately funded housing trust fund in Johnson County.

Second, in several different



HTFJC Executive Director, Andy Johnson

contexts over the last several months education and communication have been identified as critical community housing issues, particularly in terms of affordability and accessibility. We'd like this newsletter to provide information beyond the work of the Trust Fund. Suggestions, submissions and updates are welcome from housing providers, local governments, businesses and citizen and trade organizations.

A full color version of the newsletter is available at our website, www.htfjc.org, as well as more information about the work of the Housing Trust Fund.

HOUSING SUMMIT BRINGS LEADERS TOGETHER

On November 14th, over 100 community leaders and interested citizens gathered in the Community Center of South Slope Cooperative in North Liberty to discuss area housing needs and explore possible collaborative efforts. With assistance from a number of community partners and financial support from area banks, developers, governments and organizations, HTFJC was able to bring Carl Guardino, president and CEO of the

Silicon Valley Leadership Group. Guardino has gained national recognition for successfully bringing together business leaders and other community partners to address issues, such as affordable housing, that affect the quality of life in Silicon Valley. He encouraged participants to motivate the "grassroots", engage the "grasstops", and focus on areas of agreement.

Following Guardino's comments a



panel of local experts provided their perspectives on the chal-



Keynote speaker, Carl Guardino

lenges and opportunities in trying to have a variety of housing stock throughout the county that is affordable to resident across the economic spectrum. Finally, participants broke into smaller groups to discuss first steps, or "low hanging fruit" that could be taken to build regional collaborations.

More information about the summit, and input provided is at www.htfjc.org.

Statewide Housing Advocates Work Toward Stable Funding

According to the publication *Governing: State and Local Sourcebook 2002*, Iowa ranks 47th in the per capita share of its revenue spent on housing. Funding from the state's general fund budget for housing and housing assistance programs has actually been cut by a cumulative 3 year total of over \$10 million.

A statewide network of housing advocates is encouraging the Iowa legislature to provide the State Housing Trust Fund with \$6.7 million in stable, annual funding. Created in 2003, the State Housing Trust Fund has relied on annual appropriations for funding. The state fund is a major source of funding for the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County as well as housing efforts across the state. For more information about this effort and how you can help, call 358-0212.

The Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County thanks you for your interest and support in 2006 and wishes you a happy holiday season and all the best in 2007!



FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE

The Housing Trust Fund will award \$200,000 in below market financing toward housing activities, including the construction or renovation of emergency shelter, transitional, rental and owner-occupied homes, that will serve households with income at or below 80% of the area median income. Businesses, nonprofit agencies and governmental agencies with administrative capacity and a successful track record in housing and shelter related activities are eligible to apply. Funding is not available to individuals for personal use. Applications and instructions are available at www.htfjc.org, or by calling 358-0212. **Application deadline is January 16, 2007.**

This funding is made possible through funding received from the State Housing Trust Fund, the City of Iowa City and Johnson County.

The mission of the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County is to provide a flexible and innovative source of funds to produce new and preserve existing affordable rental and transitional housing, promote homeownership and support homeless services in Johnson County.

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