



## Community Housing Development Corporation

### PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Eleanor Piez 510-412-9290 x23 cell 510-837-7555 epiez@chdcnr.com

### COMMUNITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER HONORS PARTNERS, VOLUNTEERS

**RICHMOND, CA, September 29, 2010** – The [Community Housing Development Corporation](#) (CHDC) of North Richmond’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, “Caring Hands Developing Community,” will honor three organizations that have been critical to its success, and will recognize an outstanding volunteer who has donated countless hours to help West Contra Costa residents receive every tax dollar due to them. The gala awards dinner takes place Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium at 403 Civic Center Plaza in Richmond, CA.

The CHDC Founders’ Award will go to the [S.H. Cowell Foundation](#), a philanthropic foundation dedicated to improving the lives of children living in poverty in Northern and Central California by providing support to strengthen families and communities.

“Over the past 15 years, the S. H. Cowell Foundation has not only embraced our vision of a revitalized North Richmond, but invested over \$4.6 million in the neighborhood through a variety of organizations working here including CHDC, said Donald Gilmore, CHDC’s executive director. “Their capacity-building support has had a transformative effect on the community.”

[Mechanics Bank](#) will be recognized with the Community Partnership Award for its crucial financial partnership in CHDC’s Contra Costa Moving Assets Toward Community Hands ([CC-MATCH](#)) program and the bank’s long-term commitment to building prosperous West Contra Costa communities. “Their stated mission to be a ‘trusted financial partner’ is far more than just words,” said executive director Gilmore. “Mechanics Bank is the backbone of our North Richmond Volunteer Income Tax Assistance site. They provide volunteers every week of tax

season and more - including a co-coordinator, loan computer equipment, and are available for whatever is needed to make sure people get this service.”

[Housing and Economic Rights Advocates \(HERA\)](#), a statewide not-for-profit legal services and advocacy agency, will receive CHDC’s Community Advocate Award. “Their tireless efforts to help victims defrauded by unscrupulous financial advisors, so-called loan modification programs and other scams help thousands of homeowners facing financial crisis, preventing families and communities from being torn apart by economic forces,” said Mr. Gilmore.

The final award, the “Caring Hands” Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, goes to Kathy Breedlove, a volunteer who since 2003 has given every single Saturday from January through April to helping West Contra Costa residents with low incomes prepare their tax returns so they can receive every tax dollar due them. “There’s simply no way to measure what Kathy has done for this community,” said Mr. Gilmore. “She has given not only help but hope to hundreds of families. The money she puts back in people’s pockets helps families pay for urgent needs like car repairs or rent – or even start saving, maybe for their first home - and ultimately these dollars come back to our local economy as well.”

The 20th Anniversary dinner begins at 5 p.m. with a reception and silent auction. The event raises money for CDHC’s mission to create and sustain vibrant communities that make a positive impact in people’s lives. Tickets are \$100 and may be purchased over the phone at 510.412.9290 or by visiting [www.chdcnr.org](http://www.chdcnr.org).

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**About CHDC:**

Community Housing Development Corporation is a not-for-profit organization with 20 years of experience building vibrant communities that make a positive impact in people’s lives, through high quality affordable housing, comprehensive homeownership, asset building and community building in West Contra Costa and surrounding areas. Visit us at [www.chdcnr.com](http://www.chdcnr.com).