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**WOMEN'S FOUNDATION FOR A GREATER MEMPHIS HONORED FOR  
INNOVATIVE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS**  
*HUD Announces Recipients of Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships*

San Diego, Calif. — The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in partnership with the Council on Foundations, as one of 10 recipients of the Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships. The award honors philanthropic funders for their innovative public-philanthropic collaborations designed to address housing and community development challenges.

The awards were announced yesterday during the Council's Fall Conference for Community Foundations in San Diego.

"The Women's Foundation is overwhelmed with appreciation to receive this prestigious honor and humbly accept this award on behalf of the entire city of Memphis," said Ruby Bright, Executive Director/CAO of the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis. "We recognize the difference public-private partnerships can make when all parties involved have a strategic vision to create a vibrant, prosperous city for all of its citizens."

HUD and the Council on Foundations developed the award to recognize philanthropic organizations for enhancing the quality of life for low-income and moderate-income families. The projects addressed issues concerning housing and neighborhood improvements, education, health and recreation, transportation, arts and culture, public safety, sustainability and economic development. An expert panel selected the ten winners.

The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) joined forces with the City of Memphis, the Memphis Housing Authority (MHA), and national nonprofit Urban Strategies to implement Urban Strategies Memphis HOPE (USMH), a model public-philanthropic partnership dedicated to breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty for Memphians. Since 2004, the partnership has secured \$88 million in grant funds under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOPE VI program for the community revitalization of three public housing locations – Lamar Terrace/University Place, Dixie Homes/Legends Park and Cleaborn Homes/Cleaborn Pointe at Heritage Landing. The transformation of Memphis' languishing public housing became the keynote project of this partnership.

WFGM raised funds and leveraged partnerships totaling more than \$22.2 million in public and private resources over the past seven years to build a two-generation model for comprehensive community supportive services (CSS) for women and children. The supportive services component ensured that the nationally-recognized USMH initiative provided viable means and expandable approaches to neighborhood

revitalization, while offering holistic wraparound services that produce measurable outcomes of employment and economic self-sufficiency.

Currently, USMH has increased the number of families supported from 700 in 2004 to nearly 3,000 public housing families of MHA housing communities.

WFGM is the first women's foundation in the nation to lead fundraising for a HUD HOPE VI human capital development.

"These awards provide us all a moment to reflect on the good work that foundations are doing to advance communities across the country," said Vikki Spruill, president and CEO of the Council on Foundations. "I am grateful to HUD and Secretary Donovan for recognizing the many different ways that foundations are thoughtfully responding to the needs of those around them."

"It's organizations like these that are doing the heavy lifting to improve neighborhoods, often without much thanks. Today, we say 'thank you!'" said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. "These foundations are teaming up with public and private partners to bring about positive change and lasting solutions that are making a real difference in their communities."

### **Learn more about the award recipients and the HUD Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships.**

For more information, please visit [www.wfgm.org](http://www.wfgm.org).

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*The Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis (WFGM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1995. WFGM has invested a total \$14.9 million into the Memphis community and serves 17,000 people annually. The mission of the WFGM is to encourage philanthropy, foster leadership among women and support programs that enable women and children to reach their full potential.*

*The Council on Foundations (www.cof.org), formed in 1949, is a nonprofit membership association of grantmaking foundations and corporations. Council members include more than 1,700 independent, operating, community, public and company-sponsored foundations, and corporate giving programs in the United States and abroad. The Council's mission is to provide the opportunity, leadership, and tools philanthropic organizations need to expand, enhance, and sustain their ability to advance the common good.*

*HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers, meet the need for quality affordable rental homes, utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life, build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination, and transform the way HUD does business. Anyone who believes they have been the victim of discrimination should contact HUD at 800-669-9777 (voice) or 800-927-9275 (TTY). More information about HUD and its programs is available at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) and <http://espanol.hud.gov>. You can also follow HUD on twitter [@HUDnews](https://twitter.com/HUDnews), on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HUD](https://www.facebook.com/HUD), or sign up for news alerts on [HUD's News Listserv](#).*