

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:
Caroline Bombar-Kaplan, 425-260-3302



State Honors Linda Hugo from Bremerton, Wash.

Tacoma, Wash.—Sept. 16, 2008—Linda Hugo was honored last night for years of service to the mission of expanding affordable housing resources for the benefit of Washington’s low-income residents. Before an audience of 500 colleagues, Mr. Lundgren received a *Friend of Housing* award presented annually by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission. The awards ceremony took place on Sept. 16 at the 2008 *Housing Washington* conference at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center.

“Linda has worked tirelessly to improve housing for low-income and special needs populations for years and years,” said Diane Leigland, deputy director of Community Frameworks, a Bremerton-based nonprofit organization. “She has made a remarkable contribution over the 24 years of her tenure here.” Ms. Hugo was appointed executive director of Community Frameworks in 2004. Most recently under her leadership, the nonprofit has:

- Developed or preserved 640 low-income rental units for its clients and there are an additional 331 units in development;
- Built 119 detached single-family homes and 36 condos so that first-time homebuyers who contribute “sweat equity” during construction can attain homeownership. Currently five homes are under construction;
- Received federal funds to assist 40 affiliate programs build 1,594 homes for first-time homebuyers;
- Administered housing rehabilitation programs to improve 2900 owner-occupied homes and 1700 rental units;

-more-

- Managed almost half-a-million dollars within multiple pre-development, construction and mortgage lending revolving funds supporting rental and homeownership development; and
- Provided technical assistance consulting to some 200 housing authorities, tribes, public jurisdictions, and community groups addressing local affordable housing.

Ms. Hugo has also applied her vast knowledge and experience in affordable housing development to advocate for legislation to increase housing resources for limited income households. Through her membership in the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, a consumer advocacy group, Ms. Hugo has supported the expansion of funding for housing that has improved living conditions and services for special needs populations. She has also championed increasing affordable housing availability for lower-income workers coupled with improving these workers' communities.

“Linda is a very committed advocate for low-income tenants across the state, and has worked for years to improve people’s lives,” said Kim Herman, executive director of the Housing Finance Commission. “She is very much admired.”

The Commission received more than 20 nominations for the *Friend of Housing* awards from people working in the public, private and independent sectors of the affordable housing industry. Honorees are selected for their leadership and exceptional contribution to creating or supporting affordable housing, implementing housing-related programs, creating innovative financing mechanisms for housing, supporting homebuyer education or technical training efforts within the housing community and helping to solve housing problems.

Washington State Housing Finance Commission is a publicly accountable, self-supporting agency dedicated to increasing housing access and affordability and to expanding the availability of quality community services for Washington state residents.



www.wshfc.org