

Affordable Housing Conference, 2005

Sharpening the Focus—Building Resources through Advocacy

November 16, 2005

The **Atlanta Housing Association of Neighborhood-based Developers (AHAND)** held its second annual conference in collaboration with the **Georgia State Trade Association of Non-Profit Developers (GSTAND)** and the **Georgia Affordable Housing Corporation (GAHC)** at the Cobb Galleria Centre in Atlanta, Georgia. Over 130 individuals from across the state participated in the conference and attended workshops on a wide range of topics including: Emerging Non-Profits, Community Development Corporations and Local Government, DCA's Single-Family Housing Development Program and many others.

The conference began with an engaging plenary session on resource development in which Hattie Dorsey of the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Todd Pitman of the NeighborWorks Insurance Alliance, and Thomas Fitzgibbon of MB Financial Bank shared invaluable information on the subject. Judith Kennedy, President of the National Association for Affordable Housing Lenders (NAAHL) delivered the Conference's keynote address which emphasized the importance of affordable housing. Norreen Beatly, Director of State and Local Public Policy for the Enterprise Foundation led an engaging plenary session on developing effective strategies for public policy advocacy in rural and urban settings.

Among the conference's many highlights was the presentation of the second annual AHAND awards. Awards were presented in the categories of Affordable Housing Champion, Project of the Year, and Member of the Year. **Dr. Larry Keating**, Professor of City Planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology was recognized as the Affordable Housing Champion; the Community Alliance for Metropolitan Parkway's **Crescent Hills Apartment Homes** received the award for Project of the Year; and **Kate Grace**, **Service Learning Coordinator of the Community Housing Resource Center** earned top honors as AHAND's Member of the Year.

Sponsors included **the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, BB&T, NetBank, Regions Bank, and SunTrust**. With the overwhelming success of the 2005 conference, AHAND looks forward to next year's event with great anticipation.



From Left to Right: Panelist John Eaton, Elke Davidson, and George Howell discuss challenges facing emerging non-profit housing developers



Judith Kennedy, President of the National Association for Affordable Housing Lenders delivered the conference's Keynote Address



2005 AHAND Award winners: John Coleman, CAMP; Kate Grace, CHRC; Dr. Larry Keating, Georgia Tech

