



Press Release

Bill Wortley, bwortley@wshfc.org

Retired Spokane Resident Honored for Selfless Work in Housing

Spokane, Wash. —Sept. 28, 2011— The Washington State Housing Finance Commission presented a *2011 Friend of Housing* Award to retired HUD Field Office Director Arlene Patton at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane during the annual *Housing Washington* conference.

"Arlene is remarkably dedicated to ensuring that the Spokane region works together to maximize the use of housing resources," said Washington State Housing Finance Commission Executive Director Kim Herman. "In addition to being a force in developing initiatives, partnerships and programs, she has pulled her weight building Habitat for Humanity homes from Anchorage to Thailand."

Patton retired in 2007 as the Field Office Director for both the Spokane/Eastern Washington and the Boise, Idaho HUD Offices, and has continued to volunteer much of her time in service to those challenged to obtain affordable housing.

During her years at HUD in Spokane, Patton actively participated with community organizations to further the availability of affordable housing. As an example, to mitigate the run around people get when they seek affordable housing, she encouraged the Spokane community to research and implement a housing locator service. The result was the 2006 launch of OneStopHousing.org that continues to provide the

most comprehensive listing of available, affordable rental homes in the Spokane region.

In addition, she is a long-time advocate for creating special needs housing for seniors and persons with disabilities. Under her leadership, emphasis at HUD was placed on creating additional Permanent Supportive Housing for the Elderly (Section 202) and the Disabled (Section 811). In partnership with local nonprofits, Section 202 and 811 housing communities were developed in Cheney, the Tri-Cities, Walla Walla, Deer Park, Coeur d'Alene, Moses Lake and Spokane.

Patton has been involved in improving the lives of families and strengthening communities through the development of affordable housing since 1978. Until the mid-80s, she worked for two Alaska housing authorities, strengthening their financial management and developing affordable housing in remote communities located in the Prince William Sound/Aleutian & Pribilof Island Regions.

After joining HUD in 1984, Patton worked with all 15 Alaska regional native and public housing authorities. Her work focused on building sound financial structures as well as improving internal management capacity.

Most recently as a volunteer, Patton has led a 2008 Regional Affordable Housing Task Force charged by local governments to develop specific recommendations for the long-term availability of affordable housing. Its report, completed in December that year, was endorsed by all local governments and housing organizations. In 2010, she accepted a request by the City of Spokane to chair its newly

created Spokane Regional Homeless Governance Council. The 12-member council represents key agencies, organizations and businesses with an interest in improving living conditions for the homeless. Its vision is to implement the local 10-year homeless plan "The Road Home" and focus critical resources toward that goal.

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