

October 24, 2013

Longtime Seattle advocate honored as Friend of Housing

SEATTLE—In recognition of her long career of successfully developing affordable housing in the Pacific Northwest, Sue Cary of Seattle has been honored as a Friend of Housing by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission.

“At Capitol Hill Housing and well before, Sue Cary’s efforts have created affordable homes for thousands of people in the Northwest,” said Karen Miller, chair of the Housing Finance Commission. “She leaves a legacy of success in the housing world.”

Cary was one of five Friend of Housing awards presented earlier this month in a ceremony at the 20th annual Housing Washington conference in Spokane.

Friend of Housing awards are presented each year to individuals or organizations who have made exceptional contributions to creating or supporting affordable housing. Examples include helping to solve housing problems, creating innovative financing mechanisms, or drafting legislation or policy that addresses the state’s housing needs.

Sue Cary retired from Capitol Hill Housing (CHH) in November 2012 after 12 years as director of asset management and director of property development. She oversaw a period of tremendous growth, during which seven housing projects were created or rehabilitated by CHH.

Cary created the asset management department in 2007 to strengthen CHH’s portfolio, which is now more than 1,200 units in 44 buildings. She was also instrumental in a portfolio preservation plan and asset management database that has become a model for other affordable-housing agencies working to preserve affordable housing.

Prior to working at CHH, Cary helped to develop more than 1,000 units of affordable housing. She began her career in affordable housing in the 1970’s at the Mt. Baker Housing Rehabilitation Program, followed by two terms on the Seattle Planning Commission.

In 1988, she joined the staff at South East Effective Development as housing manager, where she oversaw the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Lake Washington Apartments, a severely deteriorated 366-unit property in Rainier Beach. She later opened the Seattle office of Oakland-based A.F. Evans Company, overseeing the acquisition and preservation of affordable housing in the Pacific Northwest.

Cary continues to be a mentor to other developers and is active in the housing world. She currently serves as president of the board of the Northwest Association for Housing Affordability, board member of the Capitol Hill Housing Foundation, and loan committee member for the Rainier Valley Community Development Fund. She lives in the Mt. Baker neighborhood of Seattle.

For more information on Housing Washington and the Friend of Housing Awards, see www.wshfc.org/conf.

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Celebrating its 30th year in 2013, the [Washington State Housing Finance Commission](http://www.wshfc.org) is a publicly accountable, self-supporting team that works with lenders, investors, developers, nonprofit organizations and more to bring private investment dollars to benefit families and achieve public goals throughout Washington. The Commission has created and preserved more than 275,000 affordable homes across the state, while contributing more than \$42.5 billion and 240,000 jobs to the economy.



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