

SECOND ANNUAL MARYLAND ASSET BUILDING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK, INC. *Awards of Excellence 2009*

Members of the Maryland ABCD Network, Inc. care for communities – both people and places, urban, suburban and rural. For the ABCD Network, urban revitalization goes hand-in-hand with strengthening existing suburban and rural communities. Our goal is to concentrate growth on the revitalization of existing communities throughout the state. Struggling communities share similar characteristics whether they are urban, suburban, or rural, but each also face distinct challenges. Working together, we can share strategies that work.

This broad focus is the realistic way to strengthen individuals and communities in Maryland. It connects people to place, asset building to community development, and big city to small town. This approach encompasses for-profits, non-profits, government, and individuals. The ABCD Network represents nonprofit organizations and small government agencies that implement and integrate asset building and community development. At the same time, we value our partnerships with for-profit businesses and larger government agencies. We know that our communities cannot thrive without our creating a broad and diverse constituency for the tough but important work of helping individuals and communities thrive.

We want to give recognition to organizations and agencies that truly represent the values held high by Network members. We are highlighting three values – **Advocacy**, **Innovation**, and **Collaboration** – that collectively reflect this holistic approach to community building.

2008 Award Winners

Advocacy ♦ Casa De Maryland
Innovation ♦ Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs
Collaboration ♦ Community Law Center

WE ARE SEEKING NOMINATIONS IN THE CATEGORIES SHOWN BELOW:

- **ADVOCACY AWARD:** *Outstanding Policy/Advocacy Work in the Field*
The nominated agency has played a significant role in making community revitalization, affordable housing and/or wealth building more possible at the local or statewide level.
- **INNOVATION AWARD:** *Innovation/Implementation of Cutting Edge Practices*
The nominated agency has implemented a practice that reflects a new way of thinking about the problem to be solved. We are looking for non-conventional approaches that are innovative within the context of agency size and geographic area.
- **COLLABORATION AWARD:** *Best Community Collaborations That Cut Across Silos*
The nominated agency has engaged in a collaboration that creatively connects groups from the larger ABCD field. We will highlight distinctive, creative collaborations where the agency, working with one or more partners, has created new connections among organizations that were not previously connected.

ELIGIBILITY: 501(c)3, government, community organizations and individuals or institutions doing work in Maryland. Entities that employ members of the ABCD Awards Committee as staff are not eligible for awards. 2009 Awards Committee Members are Jennine Auerbach, Karen Blandford, Tara Clifford, Sally Scott and Zenobia Williams.

DEADLINE: Nominations by email must be submitted by 5 PM August 14, 2009. Nominations by snail mail must be postmarked by August 12, 2009. See nomination form for full details.

AWARDS PRESENTATION: All award winners will be announced at the **Maryland ABCD Network Members Luncheon** on Thursday, October 8, at Turf Valley Resort in Howard County. Winners will not be notified in advance, so applicant attendance is strongly suggested.