

PAHRA's 2014 Bellamy Awards and Best Practices Showcase

PAHRA received 16 excellent entries to participate in our 2014 Best Practices Showcase, which highlights the achievements and extraordinary efforts of our PAHRA members. It also demonstrates the diversity of activities involved in providing affordable housing, improving lives, and revitalizing communities throughout Pennsylvania.

Each year, PAHRA recognizes members who have implemented innovative ideas, explored successful entrepreneurial activities, exhibited excellence in design, shown progressive program operations, provided outstanding customer service or supportive services in a unique way, or created a lasting impact upon their communities.

The Bellamy Award is PAHRA's highest level recognition of achievement. The 2014 Bellamy Award for a Housing Related Project or Program was presented to the **Harrisburg Housing Authority**, Senghor Manns, President & CEO, for the **Environmental Teen Corp. Summer Youth Jobs Program**.

The City of Harrisburg, like many urban areas, fights an uphill battle in addressing litter, pollution, environmental contamination and waste. Harrisburg Housing Authority recognized that they could help combat that problem, while also investing in the younger generation by educating them in the benefits and positive effects of healthy living, clean communities and civic involvement, while exposing teenagers to a variety of life skills along with critical environmental awareness.

The Environmental Teen Corp. Summer Youth Program was created to address environmental issues in an educational setting for teenagers in a practical way. The program included activities such as:

- neighborhood beautification and riverfront cleanup
- pollution education
- career counseling
- home improvements
- environmental surveys
- identification of blighted properties
- garden competitions
- healthy eating alternatives
- learning luncheons with business owners
- speakers addressing teen issues and life lessons.

The 2014 Bellamy Award for Redevelopment, Community Development or Other Related Programs was presented to the **Philadelphia Housing Authority**, headed by CEO Kelvin Jeremiah for the **Philly Seeds, Inc.** non-profit organization.



Philly Seeds, Inc. was created to address the need to raise non-Federal funds in order to expand opportunities for housing authority residents to achieve self-sufficiency. Through Philly Seeds, the housing authority is able to leverage agency funds with philanthropic donations and other programmatic partnerships to expand the availability of social services provided to residents, as well as provide economic opportunities such as academic scholarships, micro-financing for resident entrepreneurial activities, and homeownership. To provide an idea of the magnitude of the program, this year alone Philly Seeds distributed \$200,000 in scholarships to 50 residents, and provided over 4,000 residents with \$36,000 in school supplies, in addition to many other ways in which the non-profit has impacted the lives of housing authority residents.

The 2014 Best Practices Award for a Housing Related Project or Program was presented to **Housing Authority of the City of Erie**, John Horan, Executive Director, for the **One-Stop Shop Social Services Center**.

Erie Housing Authority recognized the need for easier accessibility to social and health related services for their residents,

