

## Church Point Leaves Imprint On Statewide Housing Awards

The Church Point Housing Authority and the Church Point News Newspaper were presented with first place awards from the Louisiana Housing Council at their Annual Awards Ceremony and Scholarship Presentations Luncheon, held at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center on May 13, 2015.

The Louisiana Housing Council has over 125 active members from around the state, comprised of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Public Housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program agencies. Nearly 100,000 low-income households in Louisiana use federal rental assistance to rent modest housing at an affordable cost.

The Louisiana Housing Council is a State Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) headquartered in Washington, D.C., and a member of the Southwest National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (SWNAHRO) - one of eight NAHRO Regional Councils extending nationwide. The Louisiana Housing Council or LANAHRO as it is sometimes referred to, facilitates the professional development of its membership and advocates for quality housing programs in our communities.

The Church Point Housing Authority was presented with two awards by the Louisiana Housing Council - Best Newsletter (Church Point Housing Authority's "Families First" Quarterly Newsletter), and for Other Agency Publications (Best Website: [cphousing.org](http://cphousing.org) / [cpnow.org](http://cpnow.org)). Church Point News Newspaper was presented with the Media Recognition Award for Best Press Releases.

Accepting the awards for the Church Point Housing Authority was Charles Labbe, Executive Director. Charles says, "I am proud of our entire team and partners who have fallen to the temptation to do good, an awesome manifestation of energy. We were able to earn this recognition by simply emphasizing the many positive aspects the Church Point Housing Authority and our community have to offer."

JoAnn Duplechin, Church Point Housing Authority Board Chair, accepted the Media Recognition Award on behalf of the Church Point News Newspaper. JoAnn says, "It is an honor to serve on this board and work with such dedicated members of the Church Point Housing Authority. Charles and his staff demonstrate leadership, commitment, and pride in helping residents and the agency. The awards presented to the Church Point Housing Authority are a proven testament of how much he and his team take pride in what they do."

Twenty-six guests of Church Point Housing and Church Point News attended the luncheon. Special guest speakers included Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne, Baton Rouge Mayor Melvin "Kip" Holden, and HUD New Orleans Field Office Director Cheryl J. Williams. Each spoke of the many challenges and opportunities in community housing, and praised the highly spirited work of the Louisiana Housing Council to help local housing and community development agencies better succeed.

Although Ms. Gertrude Broach, past president and charter member of the Louisiana Housing Council and a lifetime member of SWNAHRO, was not able to attend this year's event, her presence was certainly felt by the large audience with the announcement of the \$1,000 Gertrude Broach Scholarship, and with the presentation of the Arthur J. Gallagher \$5,000 Gertrude Broach/Don Broussard Scholarship, awarded annually in honor of Ms. Gertrude's many years of exemplary service to the housing industry that continues to this day.

Compliments to LHC President Kenneth Habetz, LHC Executive Secretary Daniel Strange and his wife Susan & Family, Awards Committee Chair Chris Simpson, Housing Solutions Alliance Accountant Belitha Baker and the many generous sponsors, organizers, and committee members for making this year's conference a memorable and moving experience, and an enormous success.

Special thanks to Christine Benoit, Church Point Housing Authority Board Member, for driving several of the guests from Church Point to and from Baton Rouge for the momentous occasion.

Read more about the 2015 Louisiana Housing Council Legislative Conference, Awards Ceremony, and Scholarship Presentations in the upcoming Summer Edition of the Church Point Housing Authority's "Families First" Newsletter.