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## **Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) Marks 20 Years of Leadership and Innovation**

### **CSH Honored Partners with Champions of Supportive Housing Awards**

New York, NY—October 19, 2011—CSH celebrated 20 years of leading the national supportive housing movement yesterday at The Prince George Ballroom in New York City. The event featured a keynote address from *New York Times* best-selling author and Food Network television personality Chef Jeff Henderson, panel discussions on the state of the supportive housing industry from a local and national perspective, and an awards ceremony honoring fellow supportive housing innovators and partners.

For the past 20 years CSH has worked with partners throughout the country to bring supportive housing to the forefront as a solution to ending and preventing homelessness for the our nation's most vulnerable populations including veterans, families and children, formerly incarcerated individuals, and chronically homeless individuals. Yesterday's event celebrated the supportive housing industry's accomplishments and while looking toward the future.

The celebration was made more special by the introduction of a Resolution in the United States Senate by Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Rob Portman (R-OH) recognizing our 20 years of work to end homelessness through the creation of supportive housing.

During the awards presentation hosted by CSH Chair of the Board of Directors Denise O'Leary, CSH honored partners and supporters who have aided in the supportive housing movement. Award recipients included:

#### **Lifetime Champion: Robert Hohler**

CSH honored the late Robert Hohler with the Lifetime Champion Award. The former executive director of Melville Charitable Trust and long-time CSH partner was a force for good and saw the potential for philanthropy to go beyond funding. His vision to create a national platform, Funders Together to End Homelessness, to advance solutions for ending homelessness has resulted in communities across the country embracing evidenced-based practices to house the most vulnerable families and individuals.

#### **Funding Champion: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is one of CSH's largest—and longest—funders. A leader in philanthropy, RWJF has worked with CSH on such initiatives as *Taking Health Care Home*, which helped communities across the country to work on the intersection of housing and health; the *Returning Home Initiative*, which is establishing supportive housing as an essential component of reintegrating formerly incarcerated people

into communities; and most recently on *Keeping Families Together*, which is demonstrating that supportive housing can help some of the country's most vulnerable and high-risk families.

**Champion Supportive Housing Project: Anishinabe Wakiagun, Minneapolis, MN**

For 15 years, Anishinabe Wakiagun has served American Indians and others in Minneapolis. The program demonstrates an approach to providing safe, affordable service-supported housing for homeless people through a Housing First, Harm Reduction model. The housing was based on findings that most American Indians who were homeless were single adults, chemically dependent and were staying, not in shelters, but outside or in detox. The project became an example for others in the supportive housing field looking to work with people addressing similar issues.

**Champion Supportive Housing Project: Direct Access to Housing, San Francisco, CA**

Direct Access to Housing is a supportive housing program that strives to help low-income San Francisco residents stabilize their housing and improve their health despite co-occurring mental health issues, substance abuse problems and chronic medical conditions. Direct Access to Housing currently houses close to 1,300 formerly homeless persons across 29 sites. The program is significant for its vision on how to serve people who were "high utilizers" of its public health systems and for its effective work with property owners and the local nonprofit housing and service community.

**Champion Supportive Housing Project: Cedar Avenue, New York, NY**

Cedar Avenue, the newest affordable housing program of Community Access, opened its doors in March 2011 to provide affordable housing to low-income families and individuals with psychiatric disabilities. This pioneering project was a first-time funding collaboration among the State Office of Mental Health, state housing finance agencies and private investment entities in a mixed-tenancy project. It represents how supportive housing and affordable housing can be fully integrated, and how nonprofit and private developers can successfully work together.

**Government Champions: The New York/New York Agreements**

The New York/New York Supportive Housing Agreements epitomize the kind of cross-sector, multi-agency collaboration needed to end and prevent homelessness. They are an inspiration and model for states and local jurisdictions across the country. Starting with the first Agreement in 1990, this unique program has brought city agencies, developers and service providers to the table to create supportive housing that meets the needs of New York's homeless mentally ill population. NY/NY III was and remains today the largest effort and investment in supportive housing by any state or jurisdiction around the country.

Funders of CSH's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration included Lantern Group, Richman Housing Resources LLC, Goldman Sachs, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Alembic Community Development, Hirschen Singer & Epstein LLP, A. Larovere Consulting, Community Solutions, Dunn Development Corp., Related Companies, Butler Woodcrafters, CAMBA/CAMBA Housing Ventures, The Fortune Society and Regan Development Corporation

More information about CSH's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary is posted at [www.csh.org/20years](http://www.csh.org/20years), including stories of CSH's history of impact and innovations and CSH's 2010 Annual Report.

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### **About Corporation for Supportive Housing**

For 20 years, CSH has been a catalyst for housing connected with services to prevent and end homelessness. CSH develops innovative program models, provides research-backed tools and training, offers development expertise, makes loans and grants, and collaborates on public policy and systems reform to make it easier to create and operate high-quality supportive housing. CSH is on track to meet its goal of helping communities create 150,000 units of supportive housing nationwide by 2012.

### **About Chef Jeff Henderson**

Chef Jeff Henderson is an award-winning chef, motivational speaker, New York Times best-selling author, and Food Network television personality. Henderson captivates audiences across the country with his triumphant story of change and the power of potential. Henderson grew up on the tough streets of Central LA and San Diego. By the time he was 19, he was running a \$35,000 a week drug operation. At 24, Henderson was arrested and sent to prison, where he spent the next ten years behind bars. It was while incarcerated that he discovered a passion for cooking and committed himself to turning his life around. After spending nearly a decade behind bars, with no formal education and a criminal background, he struggled for years in the hospitality industry. But, with persistence and determination, he was able to achieve his dreams, eventually becoming the executive chef of Café Bellagio in Las Vegas. Henderson is the voice of personal and professional change, distinguishing him as a leading authority on human potential.