

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT

Madelyne J. Pfeiffer – Manager of Social Services
760-944-9050 / MPfeiffer@aspalmshousing.com

FOR RELEASE

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National City's Victoria Fernandez Receives Catalyst for Community Change Award at HUD's 10th Anniversary Neighborhood Networks Conference

NATIONAL CITY, CA - At the 10th Anniversary Neighborhood Networks Conference, Victoria Fernandez of the **Summercrest Community Center** received the Catalyst for Community Change Award presented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The award is given to a Multifamily Neighborhood Networks center staff member or volunteer whose dedicated commitment and outreach efforts have brought about measurable change in the center, on the property where the center is located, and/or in the community.

HUD created Neighborhood Networks in 1995 to encourage property owners to establish community learning centers in HUD insured and assisted properties. Neighborhood Networks was one of the first federal initiatives to promote self-sufficiency and help provide computer access to low-income housing communities. Today, more than 1,100 Neighborhood Networks centers are in operation across the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

From June 29- July 1, HUD's Office of Multifamily Housing Programs sponsored a 10th Anniversary National Training conference in Lake Buena Vista, FL. More than 25 awards in eight different categories were presented during a special recognition ceremony at the conference.

Victoria Fernandez, center coordinator at the **Summercrest Community Center**, has made a vital contribution to her community and the Neighborhood Networks Initiative. With support from Ms. Fernandez and others, HUD's Neighborhood Networks will continue to achieve, at an even higher level, its commitment to placing the power of technology in the hands of the people.

To learn more about the Neighborhood Networks Initiative, please visit the Neighborhood Networks Web site at www.NeighborhoodNetworks.org.

