



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL TO RECEIVE EXCEPTIONAL INNOVATION AWARD FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING;  
LOCAL HOMEOWNERS ALSO TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY**

On Thursday, September 8, Community Home Trust will present its second annual awards to several people who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to their community. The awards will be presented at the Orange County organization's Annual Meeting and Block Party presented by Pinnacle Financial Partners, to be held at Southern Community Park from 5 to 8 p.m. This year's Exceptional Innovation Award will be presented to the Town of Chapel Hill and for the second year in a row is sponsored by UNC Health.

"Over twenty years ago, the Town of Chapel Hill implemented a truly revolutionary concept: its inclusionary zoning policy, which ensures that there are affordable homeownership opportunities in every new development in the Town. And they have maintained this policy ever since, resulting in 244 permanently affordable homes. Very few communities in this country can boast of such an innovative approach to welcoming everyone to make their home there," said Kimberly Sanchez, Executive Director of Community Home Trust.

Also to be honored during the meeting are LaPerry Ward, recipient of the Deanna Carson Memorial Good Neighbor Award, presented to a Community Home Trust homeowner who exemplifies the definition of a good neighbor and commitment to community demonstrated by the organization's late Housing Program Coordinator, Deanna Carson. The first annual Building Better Futures Award will be presented to another Community Home Trust homeowner, Evan Hirawasa, a supporter who has demonstrated a shared belief that everyone deserves a place to call home, going beyond the call of duty in a meaningful way. The Good Neighbor Award is sponsored by the Teresa Parker Group at Union Home Mortgage, and the Building Better Futures Award is sponsored by East West Partners. Other sponsors for the event are PHE, Inc. and PNC.

"This event is going to be so much more than a meeting: it will be a celebration and a reunion as we gather in person for the first time since the pandemic began," said Sanchez. "I can't think of a better opportunity to recognize our Town leadership and these community members who make this such a great place to live."

The public is invited to attend Community Home Trust's Annual Meeting and Block Party, during which the organization will also provide annual updates and celebrate the community with free food, giveaways, and musical entertainment from Kevin Baker Music and Oxente Brazilian Drumming. Registration for the event is free and is not required but is requested for the purposes of planning. Visit <https://communityhometruster.org/annual-meeting/> to register to attend.

About Community Home Trust (CHT): Community Home Trust delivers housing affordability to diverse populations in partnership with communities. CHT currently has 332 homeownership and rental units in its inventory in Orange County, NC. The median cost of a CHT home is less than one-third of the median cost of a home in Orange County and remains affordable for 99 years. Learn more at [communityhometruster.org](https://communityhometruster.org).

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