



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL AGENCIES AND NEIGHBORS RECEIVE ACCOLADES FROM CAPITOL HILL UNITED NEIGHBORHOODS FOR FOSTERING LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE DENVER COMMUNITIES

*Denver's largest, oldest registered neighborhood organization announces recipients of the 2021
SEED Funding and Good Neighbor Awards*

Denver, CO— The year 2020 was a difficult one for social service agencies and groups requiring funding to do their great work, but last week, eight deserving groups in the Greater Capitol Hill neighborhood received community funds from the Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) S.E.E.D. Awards Program. While usually recognized at CHUN's annual member meeting, this year all honorees were recognized on a virtual presentation on Wednesday, January 6, 2021.

S.E.E.D. is an acronym for **S**mart development, **E**nrichment, **E**nvironmental sustainability, and **D**iversity and all recipients were awarded funding to encourage civic entrepreneurship or promote neighborhood engagement in one or more of these funding areas. Thanks to a generous gift from Verizon Wireless Foundation and a significant growth in our membership program, CHUN was able to more than double its awards bestowed for 2021.

“This funding is an opportunity for our organization to put ideas for improving neighborhoods into action through impact investing,” said Travis Leiker, president of CHUN’s board of directors. The 2020 S.E.E.D. Award Recipients are:

- **Harm Reduction Action Center**, a public health agency that works with people who inject drugs, who will underwrite ongoing community cleanups where they can also facilitate hard conversations regarding homelessness and drug use issues.
- **Our Saviors Lutheran Church**, who will purchase clothes and toiletries for those needing a helping hand in the neighborhood.
- **Safehouse Denver**, a residential safehouse who will upgrade playground fencing to ensure children safety and provide more outdoor play options.
- **Senior Housing Options**, who will enhance the exterior grounds of the Olin Hotel apartments, which provides affordable housing for more than 100 seniors in the heart of Capitol Hill.
- **South City Park Neighborhood Association**, who will collaborate with Front Line Farming to provide affordable, locally grown food for those needing food assistance.
- **Swallow Hill Neighborhood Association**, who will employ adults experiencing economic insecurity and offer them a unique opportunity to rebuild their lives through work in their own neighborhood. Particular emphasis will be placed on neighborhood cleanup efforts surrounding the Temporary Safe Outdoor Site at 16th and Pearl Street.
- **The Gathering Place**, an inpatient treatment refuge for homelessness women, children and transgender Denverites, who will expand their peer recovery program to include a trauma-informed program in a community-based day shelter setting in the neighborhood.

- **Urban Servant Corps**, who will pair young adult volunteers with non-profit organizations to give them opportunities to understand social needs, to create social change and to achieve personal growth through the experience.

To recognize nonprofit organizations, individuals, or businesses for outstanding contributions to the greater Capitol Hill community, CHUN also announces its 2021 Good Neighbor Award recipients. The 2020 Good Neighborhood Award Recipients are:

- **Bill DeMaio**, a local architect, who received the *Roger Armstrong Award for Outstanding Volunteerism* for his hard work in helping to get CHUN stabilized financially and successful rezone its Tears-McFarlane Property at 1290 Williams Street.
- **Courageous Yoga** who received the *Neighborhood Safety Award* for fostering safe neighborhoods by increasing access to yoga and wellness programs, while creating safe places and establishing communities that are safe for historically marginalized populations.
- **REDI Corp** who was awarded the *Affordable & Accessible Housing Award* for their contributions to address homelessness and ensuring accessible, affordable housing in our neighborhoods throughout the Greater Capitol Hill Community.
- **Reverend Bonita Bock** who received the *Tom Knorr Award for Outstanding Community Leadership* that is given to a person who brings people together, builds partnerships and helps people to realize we can accomplish more collectively and become a better neighborhood as we work together. She has also worked extensively to address income inequality and engaging communities of faith to support socioeconomic justice in Denver and throughout Colorado.

- **Smith and Cannon Ice Cream & Joy Wine and Spirits**, two small businesses who both received the *Neighborhood Character Award* for preserving and developing neighborhood character through smart land use, effective zoning, community beautification, small business development, and architectural preservation. Both small businesses are essential staples in our neighborhoods.
- **St. Francis Center**, who received the *Historic Preservation Award Awarded* for preserving and restoring historic, architecturally significant treasures like the historic Warren Church at 14th Avenue and Gilpin Street, while also providing affordable housing options for Denverites from diverse backgrounds.

The Good Neighbor Awards will be presented at the CHUN Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, January 27th, 2021 at 6:30 pm. This year's annual meeting will be a virtual presentation. Leiker continued, "The annual membership meeting is an opportunity for us to call attention to acts of kindness, innovation, and great work taking place throughout our community."

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Capitol Hill United Neighborhoods (CHUN) is Denver's largest and oldest Registered Neighborhood Organization and a Colorado nonprofit corporation. CHUN's mission is *preserving the past, improving the present, and planning for the future* of Greater Capitol Hill through historic preservation, affordable housing and tackling homelessness, promoting smart land use and zoning, advancing public safety, and encouraging community enhancements through volunteerism and civic engagement.