

hud NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TIMBERS INDEPENDENT LIVING FACILITY RECEIVES A HUD “BEST PROPERTY OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR KANSAS”

KANSAS CITY, KS - Housing and Urban Development Regional Director Macie Houston joined HUD's Kansas City, Kansas Multifamily Housing HUB Director Herman Ransom at the first annual Midwest Regional Assisted Housing Management Conference to recognize The Timbers in Wichita, Kansas as the “Best Property of the Year Award for Kansas”.

The Timbers, and owner Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas and property manager Weigand-Omega Management, Inc., was selected for an innovative strategy that leveraged funding resources resulting in a major renovation to the 100-unit apartment community for people with disabilities. The property, considered a top performer by HUD, was praised for enhancements that included a fire sprinkler system and permanent, fire-retardant siding. The \$1 million renovation was made possible through private donations of over \$555,000 and a Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka Affordable Housing Program Grant of \$260,000.

HUD Regional Director Macie Houston said, “The Timbers represents one of the best developments in the nation. It illustrates how the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation of Kansas partners with the community to resolve local issue. It also demonstrates its commitment to providing first-class housing opportunities that are safe and affordable for disabled individuals living in Wichita. The Timbers is a national blueprint for the assisted multifamily housing industry and America's communities.”

“This award reflects support from many private individuals, companies and foundations and is a testimony to the spirit partnership between private and public funding sources,” said Randy Putnam, CPRF CFO, who accepted the award. “We can accomplish much for our community when we work together to ensure quality, safe housing for people with disabilities. This honor confirms the success of the CPRF mission to provide viable options for people with disabilities and specifically fulfills our commitment to our customers who live at the Timbers.”

Built in 1979, The Timbers was the first apartment complex in the nation developed by HUD for people with disabilities. With its opening, new options for independent living became a reality for people with physical disabilities. Today, it remains the only facility of its kind in Wichita and the surrounding areas.

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The 14-building complex is located on the CPRF campus and is designed to blend with the surrounding single-family homes. Radiating out from a central pond, residents, their families and friends can enjoy long stretches of walkways that wind throughout the wooded community. Residents range in age from 19 to 91.

More than 2,500 properties were considered in this year's competition. The Timber's was one of five properties selected representing one property from each of the five states under HUD's Kansas City Multifamily Housing Office. The other winners were Southridge Village Apartments, Des Moines, Iowa; Columbia Square Apartments, Columbia, MO; Bellevue Place Apartments, Bellevue, Nebraska; and Elmwood Manor Apartments, Hobart, Oklahoma.

Learn more about the Timbers online by visiting www.cprf.org/housing.asp.

HUD is the nation's housing agency committed to increasing homeownership, particularly among minorities; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development as well as enforces the nation's fair housing laws. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

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