

OACAA Briefing

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Agency Happenings

Ohio CDC Association Names SELF's Hamilton Group Workcamps 2012 Project of the Year



Hal Keller, President of the Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, awards John Post, SELF, Housing Coordinator with the 2012 Ohio CDC Project of the Year award

The Ohio CDC Association awarded Supports to Encourage Low-income Families' (SELF) Hamilton Group Workcamps the 2012 Ohio Project of the Year at the Association's annual conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

SELF's Hamilton Group Workcamps Home Repair Project was recognized for its collaboration and recruitment of hundreds of volunteers to complete home repairs for 75 very low-income homeowners who lacked the financial or physical ability to work on their own homes. Many of the homes in Butler County had dangerous situations, such as collapsing porches, roof leaks with crumbling ceilings, rotting stairs and missing handrails. Homeowners were senior citizens, people with disabilities or low-income families with young children. Eighteen owners had major building code violations with the City of Hamilton. All work was done by volunteers at no cost to the homeowner.

More than 80 sponsors, partners and donors collaborated on the effort. SELF convened a coalition of Hamilton-area organizations and city government agencies to select the homes, make hospitality plans and raise local funds. The project also received a Best Practice award from OACAA earlier this year.

"The project led to strong bonds between volunteers and clients as they worked together to make obvious safety and aesthetic improvements," said John Post, housing coordinator for SELF. "The unprecedented collaboration of residents and local groups working on a common cause had a profound and visible impact," he continued. "These large projects inspire a chain reaction – communities pitch in to help and able-bodied neighbors are motivated to make improvements to their homes, causing a sense of pride in the community."

Congratulations to SELF!