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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Marron McLeod Receives 2010 Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership

**October 27, 2010** (Utica, NY) – NeighborWorks® America announced the recipients of the 2010 Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership, which included local winner Marron McLeod.

“His service in the housing and community development field and dedication to the residents of Utica has helped transform lives,” said Kenneth Wade, CEO of NeighborWorks® America. “These outstanding individuals have enriched their neighborhoods and towns, creating lasting benefits for countless residents. We are proud to honor them for their generous service to others.”

McLeod was nominated by The UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center and is the fourth of several local winners. Kelly Walters, Lucretia Hunt and James Zecca are past recipients of this prestigious award. “The high number of winners from our small area is an obvious reflection of the quality of our leadership training program and dedication to revitalizing and growing neighborhoods through homeownership, housing rehabilitation and community empowerment,” said Janice Forte, CEO of The HomeOwnership Center.

McLeod serves as the Garden Coordinator for his block association, working for more than 20 years to maintain and care for the Cornhill Community Garden, the oldest on-going neighborhood garden in Utica. He has inspired his neighbors to actively farm and tend after the local garden, providing not only food, but also a positive learning experience for area youth. The project has also been a constant source of inspiration to stabilize and revitalize the surrounding neighborhood.

McLeod was recently honored at a dinner reception by his peers at the NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute in Louisville, KY. In addition, McLeod will be recognized at the NeighborWorks Annual Awards reception on Thursday, December 9, 2010 during the National Training Institute in Washington, D.C.

Created in 1991, the Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership honors residents who exemplify the qualities of Dorothy Richardson, a Pittsburgh activist who helped advance the community-based development movement.

Chartered in 1979 by NeighborWorks America, The UNHS NeighborWorks® HomeOwnership Center has been the leader in housing initiatives for more than 30 years. Through various programs such as Home Buyer Education, Post-Purchase Education and Pre-purchase Counseling, the certified and trained staff at the HOC offers a multitude of services on HomeOwnership. The HOC is your one-stop shop for HomeOwnership. Serving Oneida, Herkimer and Madison counties.



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If you would like more information on this topic, or to schedule an interview, please contact Julie Jalowiec at (315) 724-4197 or email Julie at [jjalowiec@unhs.org](mailto:jjalowiec@unhs.org)