



Celebrates Partnerships

By Jaimie Ross, President, Florida Housing Coalition

I had the honor of delivering the keynote address on May 25 to an event celebrating partnerships hosted by our Platinum Partner for Better Housing, PNC. Aileen Pruitt, market manager for PNC, surprised six nonprofits with \$25,000 grants in celebration and support of the mission based work that is making their communities a better place to live. The joy in the room was palpable as representatives from each nonprofit were recognized and each expressed their gratitude to the PNC team. It was clear that PNC provided far more support than simple, yet critical, financing to each organization. It was especially gratifying for me to hear awardees, such as Indiantown Nonprofit Housing and M.I.S.S. praise the technical assistance provided by Florida Housing Coalition staff, whom they credited as having been critical to their success.

Indiantown Nonprofit Housing, which provides long term, safe, and affordable housing and economic development opportunities for very low, low and moderate income residents, received an affordable housing grant. The grant will be used for three core services – weatherization, rental and/or utility assistance, and homeownership.

Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Palm Beach and the **Treasure Coast (CCCS)** received a community service grant. CCCS will divide the grant into a \$15,000 grant to provide one-on-one foreclosure counseling for 100 households, and a \$10,000 grant to fund their Homebuyer Club, which works with first-time homebuyers through homeowner counseling and financial education.

The Hispanic Human Resources Council (HHRC) also received a community service grant. HHRC, who serves more than 350 children and families in Palm Beach County, focuses on school readiness by providing quality childcare for low-income, disadvantaged families and children at risk. The grant will help create a “Room to Read,” which will allow the children



Aileen Pruitt, Florida Market Manager for PNC, Craig Grant, Regional President for Florida for PNC, and Jaimie Ross, President, Florida Housing Coalition, at the PNC Partnership Celebration



Schonna Green, Executive Director, M.I.S.S., (center) receives grant from Craig Grant, Regional President for Florida for PNC, and Aileen Pruitt, Florida Market Manager for PNC

to read books, use computers and improve their reading skills.

MetroBroward Economic Development Corporation, which serves as a catalyst for the growth and expansion of small businesses in Broward County, received the economic development grant to provide funding to the Small Business Growth and Development Program, which provides 300 participants annually with entrepreneurial training and business coaching to establish or strengthen their businesses.

M.I.S.S., which stands for Mothers and Infants Striving for Success, provides secure and nurturing environment for homeless women with children, and will help furnish the Butterfly Gardens Housing Complex with their economic development grant.

“Butterfly Gardens will provide housing and support services for 36 extremely low income single female heads of household and 80 children,” said Schonna Green, executive director of M.I.S.S. “The facility will offer 20 units with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, and an administrative building and laundry room.”

“Collaboratives and partnerships, such as our grant from PNC, are huge for non-profits,” said Green. “As a grassroots initiative in 1999, M.I.S.S. was successful in securing funding to operate the first official transitional living facility in Martin County. We strongly encourage partnerships for expertise.”

The **Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County**, founded in 2005, works with 205 households in the Palm Beach County area that are not a part of the NSP rehabilitation and sale of foreclosed homes program, but are facing their own challenges due to the age and deterioration of their homes. The revitalization and stabilization grant will be used to provide energy efficiencies through ‘green’ upgrades to households in a target area of Lake Worth that are not eligible for other funding. **HNN**