



*The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless' Beacon Place, an 85 bed transitional housing community, provides room and board mostly for people with severe or persistent mental illness living in Denver.*

# Florida Housing Coalition to Host ELI Housing Leadership Forum

*Featuring two of the Nation's Most Highly Acclaimed Developers of Housing for the Homeless and Extremely Low Income*

**T**he Florida Housing Coalition will present an "Extremely Low Income Housing Leadership Forum,"

March 27, 2007, in Saint Petersburg to discuss resources and challenges involved with housing the homeless and extremely low-income (ELI) populations in Florida. In addition to the forum, attendees are invited to participate in a roundtable ELI caucus on March 28.

The event will feature two of the nation's top low-income housing leaders, Sharon Lee, Executive Director of the Low Income Housing Institute in Seattle and John Parvensky, Executive Director of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless in Denver.



*Sharon Lee*

**John Parvensky, President & CEO,** has led the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) since 1985. Under his



*John Parvensky*

leadership, the Coalition has developed over 1,000 affordable housing units across eleven housing communities in the Denver Metro area. The units are developed to meet a variety of housing needs, ranging from families having access to schools and child care to individuals living in close proximity to college and university programs. In addition, John guides CCH in providing intensive assistance to families experiencing homelessness through support services including transitional housing, hotel vouchers, food banks, clothing centers, domestic violence

*The Low Income Housing Institute oversees seven units of permanent housing for homeless women at the Broadway House located in the Roanoke neighborhood of Seattle.*



*Denny Park, a newly constructed six story mixed-use building managed by the Low Income Housing Institute in Seattle, includes an on-site laundry facility, underground parking garage and computer lab for residents.*



*Cabrini First Hill Apartments, managed by the Low Income Housing Institute, offers 50 independent living units for seniors 62 and older living in Seattle's First Hill neighborhood.*



*The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless secured the 92-unit Renaissance at Blue Spruce development through the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act. The residence, placed at the site of the former Lowry Air Force Base, offers 30 units for transitional housing for homeless families in Denver.*

services, child care and medical services. John serves on various boards and commissions such as the Denver's Commission To End Homelessness and as Vice President of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

“Serving ELI families requires a deep commitment by all those involved,” said Parvensky. “This forum will create an opportunity to share ideas and experiences that hopefully result in tangible projects down the line.”

Parvensky's organization, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, works towards preventing homelessness for at-risk families, children and individuals. They have successfully established an ELI continuum of housing and services by linking together individuals, agencies, housing providers and leaders dedicated to fighting homelessness in Colorado.

Parvensky said he would share with attendees project details implemented by the Colorado Coalition to develop Renaissance at Blue Spruce, a 92-unit affordable housing development that includes 30 units of transitional housing for homeless families.

**Sharon H. Lee**, *Executive Director*, has an impressive history with the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) in Seattle by first establishing it in 1991, serving as a

consultant for several years and serving as its Executive Director since 1994. Under her guidance, LIHI provides affordable housing through acquisition, ownership, renovation and ongoing operations of housing for low and very low-income individuals and families. The LIHI also strongly advocates for increasing affordable housing opportunities and ending homelessness. In addition to revitalizing neighborhoods and stabilizing communities, Sharon leads the LIHI in advocacy work to increase affordable housing opportunities and end homelessness. Sharon directs a staff of 110 employees throughout the LIHI's housing, finance, property management and resident services departments. Her individual honors include the James A. Johnson Community Fellowship in 2004 by the Fannie Mae Foundation and the 2002 Community Impact Award from the Washington Community Reinvestment Association.

The Low Income Housing Institute has developed over 3,000 units and raised over \$260 million in capital, operating and supportive services funding from private and public sources. It owns or manages approximately 48 properties consisting of approximately 1,600 units, including more than 500 designated for homeless persons. Seventy-five percent of the units are provided for families or individuals earning less than 30 percent of the area median income.

“I know that John and I are totally open to answering technical questions and talking about a full range of funding and implementation strategies for nonprofits,” said Lee. “We’re hoping this forum ensures the needs of the poorest of the poor are addressed in Florida.”

Lee said extreme property values and lack of state funding are hindrances to affordable housing development by nonprofits in Seattle. She said ensuring affordable housing nonprofits are sustainable is a key to success and plans to address these concern during the forum.

**Bill Aldinger**, *Support Housing Coordinator*, recently joined Florida Housing to serve as its first Supportive Housing Coordinator. Bill comes to the Corporation from the



*Aldinger*

Department of Elder Affairs where he was the director of the Elderly Housing Unit and Coming Home Program. Bill has more than 23 years experience working in the fields of aging, mental health, long-term care, family care giving and supportive living.

Aldinger will also provide an overview of Florida’s programs and funding for ELI during the forum.

To see a complete workshop agenda and register for the forum visit the Coalition website at [www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org) or call the Coalition office at 850.878.4219.



## FLORIDA HOUSING COALITION PRESENTS

*March 27, 2007*

# EXTREMELY LOW INCOME HOUSING LEADERSHIP FORUM

First American Title Insurance Company • 140 Fountain Parkway • Saint Petersburg, FL 33716

Florida is fortunate to have far greater financial resources than other states for housing the homeless and extremely low-income populations due to our dedicated Sadowski Act revenue. We also have advocates from the nonprofit sector and within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation who have seen to it that monies are set aside specifically to serve these populations in a variety of programs. We have a number of excellent

nonprofits providing supportive housing and housing for the extremely low income, but too few able to produce the units that could and should be produced to meet the substantial need. We have the housing need and we have the housing resources. We need to ensure that when those resources are made available, we have developers with the capacity to access the funding and develop housing for the extremely low income.

### PURPOSE:

- To provide training from extraordinarily successful mission based developers of ELI, homeless, and supportive housing
- To bring together leaders and potential leaders in the non-profit sector in Florida with the ability to develop or assist in the development of ELI, homeless, and supportive housing
- To address the challenges of mission based nonprofits to develop housing for the homeless and extremely low income populations in Florida

### FACILITATOR:

- **Jaimie Ross**, President of the Florida Housing Coalition in Tallahassee, Florida

### PRESENTERS:

- **Bill Aldinger**, Supportive Housing Coordinator for the Florida Housing Finance Corporation in Tallahassee, Florida
- **Sharon Lee**, Executive Director of the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) in Seattle, Washington
- **John Parvensky**, Executive Director of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless in Denver, Colorado

**Go to the Florida Housing Coalition website [www.flhousing.org](http://www.flhousing.org) and choose the top menu bar option workshops, training& technical assistance for on-line registration.**

**There is no charge for this forum; it has been developed and delivered pursuant to the Catalyst Program for Training and Technical Assistance administered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation**