



NEWS RELEASE

Columbia Housing Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celia Saxon Health Center Wins National Award

Columbia, S.C. – Columbia Housing Authority has been named a 2008 recipient of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Merit Award for its innovative work at Celia Saxon Health Center. The award, which recognizes outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs across the nation, was presented during the NAHRO Regional Conference in Nashville, TN on July 26, 2008.

NAHRO is a 74-year-old membership organization of 3,200 housing and community development agencies and 19,500 professionals throughout the United States.

"NAHRO members have been innovative in their solutions to address resident services, operations, housing development and economic development in their communities," said NAHRO President Renée Rooker. "They have taken advantage of opportunities and we are proud to recognize their achievements."

Celia Saxon Health Center, located at 2133 Walker Solomon Way off Harden Street in the Celia Saxon community, is made possible through an in-kind partnership between CHA and Palmetto Health. The center provides free health services to CHA residents and anyone who is at or below 200 percent of the poverty level and without any type of medical coverage. In exchange for Palmetto Health providing free services, CHA provides the building rent-free.

"For over 12 years, our partnership with Palmetto Health has allowed our residents to have some of the best health services around," said Gilbert Walker, CHA executive director. "Residents without prior access to a doctor now have free health care, understand more about healthy living, and have a regular physician whom they trust enough to call before checking into the emergency room."

CHA manages over 2,000 conventional public housing units and administers more than 3,100 rental assistance contracts throughout Richland County. CHA is the third oldest housing authority in the nation and has continuously been recognized by HUD for its successful housing and education programs.

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