



## 2015 NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Each year since 1984, the Board of Directors of Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) recognizes the commitment and work of neighborhoods in awarding the “Neighborhood of the Year” in three categories. A Grand Prize winner is then selected from among the winners of each category. The 2015 award winners are:

### Neighborhood of the Year Grand Prize Winner

#### Wedge Garden in Raleigh, North Carolina

Led by Shamsa Visone and located on the Alexander Family YMCA property in Raleigh, NC, the Wedge Garden is a true community garden and learning center that connects and motivates students and families from diverse backgrounds through organic gardening, environmental stewardship and nutrition education. Since 2012, it has promoted a more health and connected neighborhood because it brings neighbors and volunteers together by gardening, education, and sharing the harvest among neighbors, volunteers and those in need.



### Physical Revitalization – Single Neighborhood



#### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

#### Westbury Civic Club – Houston, Texas

*Project: Westbury Community Garden*

Westbury Civic Club launched a revitalization effort by facilitating green projects. This effort created the Westbury Community Garden, which grew to be the largest and most diverse garden in Houston. And when the garden was in danger of being destroyed, neighbors banded together even more to save this precious feature of their community.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

#### Forest Creek Homeowners Association – Round Rock, Texas

*Project: Recycled Water Irrigation*

Forest Creek Homeowners launched a cooperative project between its HOA and the City of Round Rock and reduced their use of potable water for the community’s greenbelt and park by more than 90 percent, saving \$25,000 and 15 million gallons of water. In so doing, it also connected the city’s reclaimed water outlet to the community’s irrigation system.



#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

#### Denver Park Neighborhood – Memphis, Tennessee

*Project: Denver Park Outreach*

In Memphis, a small group of neighbors committed to making change for the better every day with the Denver Park Neighborhood Association. The group works closely with the police department’s Community Outreach Program to take back their community through a number of projects and programs like Unity in the Community Day, the Denver Park Block Party and Trick a Trunk.



## Physical Revitalization – Single Neighborhood (continued)

### Finalist

#### Shores of Wellington – Garland, Texas

Project: *Lake Shores Park*

Lake Shore Park in Garland, TX provides homeowners in the Shores of Wellington with pedestrian lake access while maintaining the privacy of nearby homeowners and the natural habitat of the area. Features include sustainable landscaping, erosion control, and secluded seating areas for residents to pause and contemplate the view.



## Social Revitalization - Single Neighborhood

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place

#### Southeast Houston Transformation Alliance – Houston, Texas

Project: *Old Spanish Trail / South Union Revitalization*

A neighborhood alliance of residents, agencies, educational institutions and many others came together to revitalize the Old Spanish Trail and South Union community. Their efforts started a number of outdoor and exercise initiatives, park improvements at Hartsfield Elementary School, and community safety programs that engage and unite residents, improving their quality of life.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

#### Sunset Avenue Neighborhood – Pasadena, California

Project: *Sunset Avenue Architectural Tour*

Sunset Avenue Neighborhood's decade-long effort to restore peace to its community that has been compromised by crime achieves a win through the neighborhood's architectural tour. The premier tour of the area's historical homes led by historian Timothy Gregory has begun a turn-around that is bringing big results to the Sunset Avenue Neighborhood.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

#### Meredith Gardens Homeowners – Huntington Beach, California

Project: *Chili Cook-Off & Bocce Ball Tournament*

Faced with losing their neighborhood park, baseball fields and green space, residents of the Meredith Gardens Homeowners Associations banded together to create the "Save LeBard Park – Bocce Ball Tournament and Chili Cook-Off." The day of fun proved to be a great fund raiser, social event and catalyst for bringing people together to save their beloved park.



### Finalist

#### Eastwood Neighborhood – Birmingham, Alabama

Project: *Eastwood Neighborhood Preservation Project*

Resident members of the Eastwood Neighborhood Association strived to preserve and protect their neighborhood. As a result, they launched a variety of community park projects as well as outreach and revitalization efforts throughout the Eastwood Neighborhood. These efforts have been successful in uniting residents of the community and making the neighborhood association stronger.



**Multi-Neighborhood Partnership Winners on Next Page**

## Multi-Neighborhood Partnerships



**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

**Raleigh, North Carolina**

*Project: Wedge Garden*

By using the Asset-Based Community Development model, a group of dedicated neighbors and gardeners have grown the Wedge Garden into a learning center to connect and motivate students and families from diverse backgrounds. Using organic gardening, environmental stewardship and nutrition education, volunteers of the Wedge Garden have transformed a neighborhood and the City of Raleigh from the inside out.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

**Hawthorne Center – Indianapolis, Indiana**

*Project: Near West Collaborative – Abandoned Mural Masterpiece*

Using gifts and raw talents from artists to enhance the appearance of boarded-up properties, the Hawthorne Center in Indianapolis launched the abandoned mural masterpiece as part of its Near West Collaborative. Through the efforts of this program city laws have been established to allow the transformation of blighted properties throughout the community.



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

**Lake Worth Centennial Committee – Fort Worth, Texas**

*Project: Lake Worth Centennial Celebration*

A year-long celebration and project created to fulfill the motto of Lake Worth, its Centennial Celebration did everything to “Honor the Past and Protect the Future.” Throughout 2014, events were designed to foster multi-neighborhood partnerships, improve community engagement and increase participation among stakeholders and neighbors.

