

# NCSHA 2015 Annual Awards Entry Form

(Complete one form for each entry)

**Deadline: Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

Visit [ncsha.org/awards](http://ncsha.org/awards) to view the Annual Awards Call for Entries.

**Instructions:** Type entry information into the form and save it as a PDF. Do not write on or scan the form. If you have any questions contact Matt Cunningham at [mcunningham@ncsha.org](mailto:mcunningham@ncsha.org) or 202-624-5424.

Fill out the entry name *exactly* as you want it listed in the program.

**Entry Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HFA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submission Contact:** (Must be HFA Staff Member) \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a 15-word (maximum) description of your nomination to appear on the NCSHA website.

\_\_\_\_\_

Use this header on the upper right corner of each page:

**HFA:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the appropriate subcategory of your entry and indicate if you are providing visual aids.**

| <b>Communications</b>                 | <b>Homeownership</b>                   | <b>Legislative Advocacy</b> | <b>Management Innovation</b>   |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Annual Report                         | Empowering New Buyers                  | Federal Advocacy            | Financial                      |
| Creative Media                        | Encouraging New Production             | State Advocacy              | Human Resources                |
| Promotional Materials and Newsletters | Home Improvement and Rehabilitation    |                             | Operations                     |
|                                       |  |                             | Technology                     |
| <b>Rental Housing</b>                 | <b>Special Needs Housing</b>           | <b>Special Achievement</b>  | Are you providing visual aids? |
| Encouraging New Production            | Combating Homelessness                 | Special Achievement         | Yes                            |
| Multifamily Management                | Housing for Persons with Special Needs |                             | No                             |
| Preservation and Rehabilitation       |  |                             |                                |



## **29 Palms: An Oasis in the Desert**

Once the school bus stops coming, parents and communities are faced with autism's perfect storm: an increasing population of special needs adults, many of whom cannot live independently, dwindling government resources, and few housing options. Over the next fifteen years, more than 500,000 children with autism disorders will become adults. Autistic adults currently have few options for housing away from their families.

Today, many of these adults are being cared for by aging parents who in most cases will not outlive their children, leaving them with limited options for lifelong support. This growing new subset of the developmentally disabled population is too old for continued support through special education services of a public school system, and too fragile to live without assistance in the larger world. Their families face a complicated system of vocational rehabilitation services, Medicaid, disconnected government agencies, and a lack of appropriated residential care options beyond an institutional setting.

The stress and worry many Arizona families deal with can be grueling. What happens now? What are our options for the future? Do we have any? These are just a few of the questions many parents with children with autism have to face. Fortunately today, thanks to people like Denise Resnik, Founder and Board Chair of First Place AZ and Co-Founder of the Southwest Autism Research & Resources Center (SARRC), these families do have options. Because of Denise and her vision, these families have 29 Palms and soon they will have the First Place AZ Campus.

29 Palms is a newly refurbished, incredibly unique affordable multifamily housing property, co-locating fifteen apartments with six apartments set aside for adults 18 years of age and older with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Foundation for Senior Living, in partnership with the Southwest Autism Research & Resources Center (SARRC) developed this project to provide services to enhance the quality of life for all the residents who desire to live there.

29 Palms is universally designed, exhibiting beautiful garden-style architecture. The community nurtures independent and dignified living while at the same time, providing the resources of a community with a life center and a secured campus.

29 Palms currently acts as a beta site for the First Place AZ Campus which is in its architectural development stage. The campus will include housing for young adults with autism, a two year tuition-based “transition academy” and a multi-use training facility for providers, professionals and physicians.

The six set-aside units at 29 Palms are specially fitted to adapt to autistic adults’ needs. Air conditioning, refrigerators and dishwashers are extra quiet to account for sensory over-stimulation, and parents of residents can choose from an array of technology to tell them everything from if their adult child is getting out of bed, to if they’re opening a cabinet.

Family and members of the autistic community are not the only ones excited about 29 Palms. The residents that make up the other fifteen units of the property are proud to call this very special place home. Many of the residents act as an extended family for the young autistic adults living in the community.

Dora Thorne, 85, moved from Tucson to 29 Palms to be closer to her son, following the passing of her husband. Since moving in, Dora has absolutely fallen in love with the neighborhood and the community. Dora, like many of the residents, has taken advantage of the convenient location, the proximity to the Valley Metro Light Rail, the group activities within the community, like baking cookies, and all the other wonderful amenities.

29 Palms received Arizona Housing Trust Fund dollars allocated by the Arizona Department of Housing along with federally funded Neighborhood Stabilization Program dollars to complete the project. Other funds came from private businesses, including LISC Phoenix and the Arizona Community Foundation. Public-private partnerships like 29 Palms work to solve problems within our communities and we could definitely benefit with more of them.

**Please take the time to click on the link below to watch a short clip on the making of 29 Palms.**

<https://youtu.be/MeOIIIY4bVU>



## 29 Palms – Phoenix, AZ





Daniel Romm  
Daniel.Romm@azhousing.gov  
(602) 771-1008

Arizona Department of Housing  
Autism Special Needs Housing

