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For Immediate Release

Project H3 Vets Joins U.S. Anti-Homelessness Representation at United Nations World Urban Forum in Medellín, Columbia

H3 Vets Invited to Join 100,000 Homes Campaign to Accept Prestigious World Habitat Award

Phoenix has been selected from a pool of 235 U.S. communities to represent the national 100,000 Homes Campaign at the 2014 United Nations World Urban Forum in Medellín, COLOMBIA today. Shane Groen, Director of Special Initiatives for the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness will join staff from the NYC-based nonprofit, Community Solutions, which coordinates the 100,000 Homes Campaign, to accept the prestigious World Habitat Award, a global honor awarded annually to the most innovative breakthrough in housing policy.

Community Solutions, this year's award recipient, selected Phoenix to accompany its staff in recognition of the highly successful program Project H3: Vets, a special initiative of the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness. Project H3 VETS coordinates community partners using the best practice model of housing-first to find and house the most long-term, vulnerable veterans on the streets of Phoenix, which has already resulted in permanent housing for all of the city's known chronically homeless veterans with a retention rate of 94%. Phoenix attributes its high retention rate to the peer-support navigation provided by community partner Community Bridges, Inc.

While in Colombia, Groen will help the Community Solutions team lead a conference session on scaling up innovative solutions to end homelessness. He will also join the team onstage to accept the World Habitat Award during the World Urban Forum's closing ceremonies.

"We've been working hard here in Phoenix to do right by our veterans and make sure they all have homes," said Groen. "It feels great to see that work recognized nationally and internationally."

The 100,000 Homes Campaign is a national movement of 235 cities and counties, coordinated by Community Solutions, working together to find permanent housing for 100,000 of the sickest, most long-term homeless Americans by July of 2014. Participating communities have already housed more than 80,000 people nationwide. 1,089 of those people were housed by organizations in Phoenix and Maricopa County.

The **World Habitat Awards** were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards of £10,000 are given annually to projects that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Community Solutions' 100,000 Homes Campaign was selected, along with the Hebron Old City Rehabilitation Programme in Palestine, from over 200 entries around the world.