



North Houston District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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North Houston District Recognizes Community Champions

The North Houston District recently celebrated community and corporate partners who contribute to the area's growth and success. North Houston District President Greg Simpson highlighted the importance of the honorees by saying, "Our ability to continue building this community is closely tied to our partnerships and volunteers." Melody Douglas, vice president of Finance & Administration for Morganti and vice-chair of the District's board, joined Simpson in awarding outstanding community servants for 2016.

Hardy Properties at Intercontinental was recognized as **Company of the Year** for its substantial investment in a 34-building business park along West Hardy near the Sam Houston Parkway. Improvements at their business park changed the landscape of the District in that area.

The **Harris County Sheriff's Office** took home the award as **Partner of the Year** for the commitment and dedication of the Harris County Task Force. Launched in March of 2016, the Task Force has contributed to an overall reduction in crime. Furthermore, their efforts to build relationships with area residents, especially youth, is changing the dynamic between law enforcement and the community.

As **Volunteer of the Year**, **Tom Wussow**, a longtime District board member, was acknowledged as a leader whose vision and insight continues to be an integral part of the organization's progress. Credited with being the District's founder, Wussow still offers guidance that helps the area address tough challenges. Following the 2016 Tax Day Flood, Wussow led efforts for an engineering study that puts the community in a position to compete for federal funds for flood mitigation projects.

Three **Community Spirit Award** recipients were honored for the critical roles and resources provided to support flood recovery efforts. **Aldine ISD** helped rescue families and safely transport them to shelters. Its M.O. Campbell Educational Center served as the primary shelter for District families displaced by the flood. **Harvest Time Church** became a primary donation drop-off and distribution point in the heart of the community, offering hot meals and supplies within walking distance of many of hardest hit apartment communities. **The City of Houston** worked tirelessly to expedite recovery efforts. A team met weekly with property owners to

assist with critical needs, like permitting for repairs, debris removal, additional law enforcement and providing housing options and resources for displaced families.

North Houston District board members are also recognized for their service at the luncheon. Donna Volkerding, area business travel manager for Interstate Hotels and Resorts, was recognized for one year of service.

The volunteer appreciation event began in 1992 as a way to acknowledge individuals and organizations whose partnership and efforts significantly enhance or expand programs in the North Houston District service area.

About the North Houston District

Created in 1991 by the Texas Legislature, the *North Houston District* is a business improvement district that leverages public and private partnerships to provide enhanced services in transportation mobility, public safety, beautification and recreational development, marketing and strategic planning and development. Minutes from Bush IAH, the District's 12-square-mile service area has 20 million square feet of office, retail and industrial properties. The District includes more than 4,400 businesses, 74,000 employees and 115,000 residents. For more information, visit www.northhouston.org.

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Company of the Year winner Hardy Properties at Intercontinental. Terry Alexander, property manager, accepted the award along with other members of his team who represent the 34-building business park along West Hardy. District President Greg Simpson (right) and Executive Vice President and COO Bart Baker (third from left) presented the award.



The Harris County Sheriff's Office was recognized as Partner of the Year. Sergeant Christopher Gore (center) accepted the award along with other members of the Harris County Task Force. The District's Public Safety Director Tracy Harrison (front row, left) is pictured here with the team.



North Houston District Founder Tom Wussow was named Volunteer of the Year. District President Greg Simpson (left) and Executive Vice President and COO Bart Baker (right) presented Wussow with his award.



Community Spirit award winner Aldine ISD. From left: District Vice President of Strategic Planning & Development Robert Fiederlein, Aldine ISD Deputy Superintendent Dr. Archie Blanson, Aldine ISD Superintendent Dr. Wanda Bamberg, District President Greg Simpson.



Community Spirit award recipient Harvest Time Church. Bishop Shelton Bady (center) accepted the award along with other members of the church's leadership from District President Greg Simpson (right).



Community Spirit award winner The City of Houston. From left: District Vice President of Strategic Planning and Development Robert Fiederlein, City of Houston Housing and Community Development (HCDD) Public Information Officer Jocklynn Keville, HCDD Director Tom McCasland, District President Greg Simpson.