

# FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION



## **2002 James A. Johnson Fellowship**

Awarded Wednesday, July 24, 2002

### **JAMES A. JOHNSON COMMUNITY FELLOWS PROGRAM**

In 1998, the James A. Johnson Community Fellows Program was created to honor the leadership and distinguished service of James A. Johnson, former chairman of the Fannie Mae Foundation, and to meet the tremendous need to recognize and reward urban and rural affordable housing and community development professionals for their work. The program's goal is to strengthen leadership in the affordable housing and community development fields by improving and cultivating professional skill levels of individuals, and by fostering the development of creative solutions to the affordable housing and community development challenges our neighborhoods and communities face throughout the nation.

In May 2002, the fourth class of six James A. Johnson Community Fellows were selected from a total pool of 94 nominations through a two-tiered regional and national review process. Each Fellow will receive a \$70,000 grant plus a \$20,000 educational travel/study stipend. Fellows design and pursue a personal and professional development plan that can include research, travel, study, self-designed internships, and other activities to achieve their personal goals and enhance their skills and knowledge. They also have the opportunity to explore new solutions to current affordable housing and community development challenges. Fellows meet as a group throughout the course of the fellowship year to discuss common issues and learn from other business, policy, and nonprofit leaders. At the end of the year, they will meet to share their experiences in fulfilling their programs and to greet the new class of Johnson Fellows.

**Fannie Mae Foundation, 2002 James A. Johnson Fellow,  
James Capraro**

Executive Director Greater Southwest Development Corporation Chicago, Illinois



Stacey Davis, Foundation President & CEO, James Capraro 2002 Fellow, Jamie Gorelick, Foundation Board Vice-Chair

James Capraro is executive director of the Greater Southwest Development Corporation (GSDC), an organization he founded in 1975 to improve his Chicago, Illinois neighborhood. Longtime home to factories and working-class ethnic European immigrant families, the neighborhood was in swift decline in the early 1970s. Racial tensions were high and longstanding businesses were threatening to leave, taking jobs with them. Today, largely as a result of Jim's leadership, this diverse community welcomes new immigrants who work together toward shared goals.

Over the past 25 years, GSDC has attracted \$492 million to the Southwest for real estate development, including creation and rehabilitation of multi- and single-family housing, industrial attraction and retention, and retail and mixed-use development. In the Greater Southwest Model Industrial Corridor, Jim led an effort to attract and retain new business, connect residents with employment opportunities and local suppliers with vending opportunities, and improve the infrastructure. For example, Nabisco decided to stay, investing \$220 million of a \$5.5 billion project and saving 1,800 jobs. StyleMaster®, a five-million-sq-ft re-foot manufacturing and distribution center owned by an African-American woman, is a \$45 million project that retained 100 jobs and will create up to 600 new ones.

GSDC's Western Avenue Retail Corridor projects have attracted more than \$100 million in new retail development, including the transformation of a vacant, blighted 13 2-acre Conrail yard site that has become a \$35 million enterprise, including \$1 million for local housing rehabilitation and a projected 600 jobs.

Through GSDC's leadership, portions of the 6311 Street retail corridor have been "decommercialized," with a \$6.2 million LIHTC project of 60 units for the elderly, a planned \$10 million assisted-living complex for 75 low-income elderly residents, and a \$12 million apartment complex for 102 low-income elderly. A new CTA Orange Line is connecting workers with downtown Chicago job opportunities, attracting new residents, and stabilizing and increasing home values through increased demand. Jim's vision of healthy communities that include diversity, housing opportunities, a vibrant economy, strong social services, and civic institutions in his own Southwest Chicago has led to demand for his expertise in many other cities.

**FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES THE 2002 JAMES A. JOHNSON  
COMMUNITY FELLOWS*****Program Recognizes and Rewards Six Affordable Housing and Community Development Professionals***

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** (July 24, 2002) – The Fannie Mae Foundation today honored six community development leaders with the national James A. Johnson Community Fellows Award during a special ceremony in Washington, D.C. The Johnson Fellowship program recognizes and rewards leading urban and rural affordable housing and community development professionals by providing an opportunity to pursue personal and professional development goals through a \$90,000 grant, which includes a \$20,000 educational travel and study stipend. The nonprofit organization with which each Fellow is associated -- through paid or volunteer employment -- may receive a grant of up to \$25,000 for transitional costs related to the temporary absence of the Fellow.

The 2002 Fellows are: Jan Breidenbach of Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing in Los Angeles, Calif.; James Capraro of Greater Southwest Development Corporation in Chicago, Ill.; R. Charles Gatson of Community Builders of Kansas City in Kansas City, Mo.; Robert Jackson of Quitman County Development Organization in Marks, Miss.; Ronald Phillips of Coastal Enterprises, Inc. in Wiscasset, Maine; and William Sullivan of Rocky Mountain Mutual Housing in Denver, Colo.

“The mission of the James A. Johnson Community Fellows Program is to recognize the recipients’ work in the community development and affordable housing arena and to give them an opportunity to expand their knowledge, enhance their effectiveness and generate new ideas,” said Fannie Mae Foundation Chairman Franklin D. Raines.

The James A. Johnson Community Fellows program was created in 1998 to honor the leadership and distinguished service of former Fannie Mae Foundation Chairman and Fannie Mae Chairman and CEO James A. Johnson.

“The James A. Johnson Fellows program is an incredible opportunity for the honorees to develop new ideas and strategies that will ultimately benefit the field,” said Stacey H. Davis, President and CEO of the Fannie Mae Foundation. “These six new Fellows have overwhelmingly demonstrated their leadership and ability to have a positive effect on low-income communities and neighborhoods across the country, and we are honored to have them as leaders in this prestigious program.”

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Each Johnson Fellow will pursue a self-designed, professional-development track to enhance the individual's skills and field experiences and to explore new solutions to current affordable housing and community development challenges. At the end of the year, the six Johnson Fellows will meet to report on their progress and will have the opportunity to share their experiences and insights with other housing and community development professionals.

The program's goals are to:

- recognize and reward individuals for their dedication and significant contributions to the affordable housing and community development fields;
- enhance leadership and professional development of the Fellows, which will have a positive impact on their neighborhoods and communities;
- foster new solutions to affordable housing and community development challenges on a local, regional or national level; and,
- inform the affordable housing and community development knowledge base and influence long-term strategies of the fields.

The Fannie Mae Foundation creates affordable homeownership and housing opportunities through innovative partnerships and initiatives that build healthy, vibrant communities across the United States. The Foundation is especially committed to improving the quality of life for the people of its hometown, Washington, D.C., and to enhancing the livability of the city's neighborhoods. The Foundation, a private nonprofit organization supported solely by Fannie Mae, has regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Pasadena and Philadelphia.

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*Style Usage: The Fannie Mae Foundation is a separate legal entity from Fannie Mae (a NYSE-listed company). In order to facilitate clarity and avoid confusion, news organizations are asked to refer to the Foundation exclusively as "the Fannie Mae Foundation" or "the Foundation," but not as "Fannie Mae."*