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For Immediate Release

Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness Hosts National Leaders at 21st Annual Statewide Conference on Ending Homelessness

Congressman Ed Pastor to Be Honored as champion of Homeless Services

Phoenix (October 21, 2014) – The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness will host its 21st Annual Statewide Conference on Homelessness next Tuesday and Wednesday, October 21st and 22nd at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix, AZ. The Conference will feature keynote addresses from Robert Egger, the founder and CEO of L.A. Kitchen, D.C. Central Kitchen, and CForward, and from Richard Cho, Senior Policy Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton will help kick-off the two-day conference with opening remarks. Congressman Pastor (AZ-CD7) will be recognized Tuesday afternoon during the Coalition’s Awards of Excellence Luncheon for his work in securing federal funds to address homelessness during his twenty-three years of service.

Robert is the founder of DC Central Kitchen, the country’s first “community kitchen”, and served as its president for 24 years. He is also the founder and current President of L.A. Kitchen, which parallels the model of DC Central Kitchen to meet the needs of Los Angeles’ most vulnerable populations, and CForward, an advocacy organization that rallies employees of nonprofits to educate candidates about the economic role that nonprofits play in every community. He has repeatedly made the *Non-Profit Time’s 50 Most Powerful Influential leaders*, was named 20014 Humanitarian of the Year by the James Beard Foundation, and in 2006 was honored by Oprah Magazine as one of “The Real Sexiest Men Alive”.

Richard Cho is based in Washington, DC, where he coordinates USICH's Federal policy efforts and the implementation of Opening Doors, the nation’s first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness. He is best known for his effort to promote housing as a health care intervention. “Because of the Affordable Care Act, we are on the verge of having a transformed health care system that is oriented to addressing the needs of the whole person, including housing needs and homelessness,” Cho said. Richard joined USICH in February 2013.

The Coalition will be honoring Congressman Ed Pastor’s years of service at the Awards of Excellence Luncheon on Tuesday, October 21st. Representative Pastor announced earlier this year that he will retire at the end of this term, after 23 years in Congress. As a powerful member of the House Appropriations Committee and the ranking member of its subcommittee of transportation, Pastor has played the leading role in creating affordable housing opportunities for all Arizonans. He’s fought for much-needed federal funding to go to HUD to fund homeless assistance grants and tenant and project-based rental assistance. He has fought against cuts to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, HOME funds, and CDBG grants.

Conference sessions focus on collaborations and creative solutions to meet the challenges of the current economy and best practices. More than 400 advocates and direct service practitioners who serve this vulnerable population are expected to attend. The conference is an exciting networking opportunity for all who participate.

Who: The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness

What: The 21st Annual Statewide Conference on Ending Homelessness: *Will Work to End Homelessness*

Where: Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 N 25th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85021

When: Tuesday, October 21, 2014 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM & Wednesday, October 22, 2014 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

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