

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **REALTOR® Associations Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act**

Cedarburg, WI— The Ozaukee Realtors Association, along with the Wisconsin Realtors Association and the National Association of Realtors, are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. ORA believes Fair Housing makes US stronger. In Ozaukee County Realtors utilize many tools to continually promote Fair Housing. Below we highlight just a few of our partners and our successes in achieving Fair Housing.

The United States Department of Agriculture has a Rural Development Program. This program assists approved lenders in providing low- and moderate-income households the opportunity to own adequate, modest, decent, safe and sanitary dwellings as their primary residence in eligible rural areas. In Ozaukee County the USDA Rural Development Program has provided over \$31,000,000 in single family home loans since 2008 and over \$5,000,000 in home loans in 2017. Since 2008 these numbers represent 200 single family home loans. This program helps lenders work with low and moderate-income families living in rural areas to make homeownership a reality. Providing affordable homeownership opportunities promotes prosperity, which in turn creates thriving communities and improves the quality of life in rural areas. (This information was provided by USDA).

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) was created in 1972 by the Wisconsin Legislature to meet an increasing need for affordable housing financing. Since 1972 WHEDA has provided almost \$103,000,000 in single family first mortgages in Ozaukee County. This represents over 1124 families that have been able to enjoy home ownership. In just the past 5 years WHEDA has provided almost \$19,000,000 in single family first mortgages in Ozaukee County. During that same 5-year period WHEDA have provided \$1,300,000 multifamily loans in Ozaukee County. In addition, WHEDA has provided over \$676,000 in Down Payment Assistance Loans since 2002.

The Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development is also very active in Ozaukee County. They believe that everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy and affordable home. Stable housing is the foundation for individuals and families. Access to affordable housing is important to developing a steady workforce, vibrant neighborhoods and communities, and a prosperous economy. The Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development has administered 99 down payment grants since 2008 in Ozaukee County alone.

All of these programs are promoted and supported by our member Realtors not only in Ozaukee County but throughout the country.

The Ozaukee REALTORS® Association is headquartered in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. The mission of the Ozaukee REALTORS® Association is to serve its members by promoting professional and ethical conduct, to foster a spirit of cooperation among its members, to provide services and programs that assist its members in the successful conduct of their business, and to help defend the rights of all people to own and transfer real property.

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Logo below is attached as .jpg format

