



For Immediate Release

Date: November 21, 2017

Contact: Julia Kathary, Coburn Place Executive Director, 317-923-5750, julia@coburnplace.org
Allison Luthe, MLK Center, 317-923-4581, allison@mlkcenterindy.org

Martin Luther King Community Development Corporation (MLKCDC) Grants Remaining Assets to Coburn Place Safe Haven and the Martin Luther King Community Center

Indianapolis, IN – The MLKCDC was incorporated in 1987 and worked until 2003 to fulfill its mission to address the deterioration of housing stock in the north central portion of the City of Indianapolis. Over the years, MLKCDC actively strove to improve the quality of life for the community it served. MLKCDC used public and private investments to empower area families to become participants in their community. It endeavored to build assets, partnerships and a strong local economy. MLKCDC invested in people, real estate, and business to pursue its mission. It focused its goals on enhancing community wealth and well-being.

Please join MLKCDC Board Members Kenneth Beache, Phil Stoffregen, and Elizabeth Booth along with representatives of Coburn Place Safe Haven, the Martin Luther King Community Center, Rodney Stockment, Senior Strategy Director for Homelessness for the City of Indianapolis, and other partner organizations working to build housing and economic stability in the community, in announcing:

Grant Awards of the Remaining MLKCDC Assets of MLKCDC to Coburn Place Safe Haven and the Martin Luther King Center in Celebration of the Legacy Work of the Reverend Charles Montgomery

Wednesday, November 22, 2017, 2:30 pm

Coburn Place Safe Haven, 604 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Please enter the gated parking lot off of Park Avenue after stopping at the intercom/call box.

As Executive Director of the MLKCDC, Rev. Charles Montgomery sought a more consistent source of revenue to conduct the mission of the MLKCDC. Together with the MLKCDC Board of Directors, Rev. Montgomery initiated a series of innovative funding mechanisms to assist generating revenues required to achieve increased neighborhood stabilization and other development projects. In conjunction with Board Member, Phil Stoffregen of Pedcor Companies, MLKCDC was able to leverage its 501(c)3 status to perform significant urban redevelopment projects in Indiana and elsewhere across the Midwest. Among those projects, in Indianapolis, Coburn Place Safe Haven, the MLK Multiservice Community Center and Ravenbrook Apartments all benefited from MLKCDC efforts between 1990 and 2003.

The work of MLKCDC ceased in 2003, but the growth of its investments did not. Long after the mission of the MLKCDC appeared to be complete and its operations shuttered, two remaining investments finally transferred ownership in 2017. MLKCDC has finally divested itself of all assets and officially closed. These final investments in low to middle income housing have resulted in remaining assets in excess of \$200,000. After taxes, MLKCDC is now able to fund two (2) one-time grants to Coburn Place Safe Haven and to the MLK Community Center in the combined amount of \$180,000 and in honor of the remaining legacy of the work of Rev. Charles Montgomery. His legacy will enhance the community, in which he tirelessly worked, for decades to come.

Coburn Place Safe Haven will use its grant funds toward purchasing an additional location for its growing Community Housing and Outreach Program. Coburn Place was established in 1996 through a partnership between MLKCDC, the City of Indianapolis, the Pedcor Companies, and a WRTV6 Safe Haven Campaign and has occupied the historic Henry P. Coburn School 66 for 21 years. Coburn Place is the largest and most comprehensive provider of transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence in the state of Indiana. It operates 35-apartments onsite as transitional housing, offering one- to three- bedroom units, rent-free, to survivors for up to two years while these individuals and families regain safety, stability, and self-sufficiency. Historically, the organization has operated with a waitlist for transitional housing and began several years ago exploring its capacity to safely house some individuals and families in their own units within the community. In 2016, it began offering survivors offsite, community housing through rent, utility, and outreach support. Coburn Place housed 14 families in its scattered-site, community housing in 2016 and will have housed 19 families in the community in 2017. The organization anticipates housing an additional 20 families in the community in 2018. Since opening its doors, Coburn Place has assisted 787 adults and 1244 children with longer-term housing stability, trauma-informed care and support services to help survivors establish safety, self-sufficiency, and overall well-being.

The MLK Center will be using the funds to think strategically about its next phase as a transformational community center, and implement economic development tools that empower residents financially as a true legacy to this investment and the vision of Rev. Charles Montgomery. Rev. Montgomery was the first Executive Director of the MLK Center in the 1970s prior to establishing the MLKCDC. He and his wife, Marriette, continue to support the MLK Center today.

###

About Coburn Place: *The vision of Coburn Place Safe Haven is of a world where every adult and child may live free from intimate partner violence, housed stably and safely, with adequate financial resources. It aims to make that vision reality through its mission of empowering victims of intimate partner violence to live as survivors. Coburn Place is Indianapolis' largest and most comprehensive provider of transitional housing, community-located housing, and support services to victims of domestic violence in the state of Indiana. It is a nationally-recognized model program in breaking the cycles of domestic violence, poverty, and homelessness. The organization has provided life-changing support to more than 2,085 adults and children since 1996. For more information, visit www.CoburnPlace.org.*

About MLK Community Center: *The Center's mission, rooted in the values established as a neighborhood leader of individual and family support for our residents, is: To create a meaningful impact on the lives of those we serve, through quality, multi-generational programs that build community, invest in youth, empower families, advocate for our neighbors, and provide a peaceful space to connect. For more information, visit www.MLKCenterIndy.org.*