



**Monrovia Area Partnership earns national recognition winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in NUSA 2008 Best Neighborhood Program competition.**

**HAMPTON, VA.** Alexis Newell, Sheila Spicer, Dan Mc Connell and Bill Skiles attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference held in Hampton, VA., a two-time All America City. NUSA is a national non-profit organization founded in 1975. Its mission is to build and strengthen neighborhoods through public and private collaborations; and to recognize those communities that proactively seek a better quality of life for their residents.

Sixty cities/communities submitted their neighborhood improvement programs for national recognition at this year's NUSA conference. The Programs were divided into two categories; social and physical improvements. MAP was placed into the physical improvement category and competed against twenty-eight other cities emerging as one of the top six finalists. The competing agencies included Lancaster, PA (8<sup>th</sup> largest city in PA with a population of 56,000), Baton Rouge, LA (230,000 population), Henderson, NV (population 265,000), Kansas City, MO (population 445,000), and Cincinnati, OH (population 332,000). After the program presentations, it came down to the top two finalists, Monrovia and Cincinnati with MAP receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> place honors.

The Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) is a comprehensive approach to delivering public services in the City of Monrovia. The objectives of the MAP program are to eliminate crime and blight while empowering neighborhoods by fostering citizen activism, volunteerism and community pride. MAP incorporates an innovative philosophy that transcends departmental barriers and coordinates public/private resources providing a high level of customer service with widespread community support.



**NUSA AWARDS:** Dan McConnell, NUSA President Judy Martinson, Bill Skiles, Sheila Spice-Batice and Alexis Newell at NUSA awards ceremony.

Since the MAP kickoff, more than 50 homes have been rehabilitated, with many more applications still being processed.

The residential rehabilitation program has provided a dynamic visual impact within MAP neighborhoods. In addition to the new roofs, fresh paint, energy efficient windows, and decorative security lighting many households took advantage of the chain-link fence removal program. The program removes old damaged chain-link fencing and if the owners desired, replaces it with decorative wrought iron or wood picket fencing.



Another positive aspect of the MAP Home Improvement Grant Program is that the repairs are accomplished as part of a work experience program through an

agreement with LA Works a job training consortium. At-risk young adults ages 19-21, who have dropped out of school, are trained in the areas of home construction; landscaping and city clean up programs.

Work crews operate under the direct supervision of a licensed contractor. LA Works enrolls these workers in a training program that helps them earn their GED while gaining valuable experience that can lead to future job opportunities and positive life changes. Many of the participants are local youth some of whom have gone forth and are now working in various construction trades. The Monrovia Area Partnership and LA Works is an award winning partnership.



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