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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### TENNESSEE JUSTICE CENTER AND METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AGENCY HOST THE FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

The Tennessee Justice Center (TJC) and the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency (MDHA) co-hosted our first annual Community Partnership Luncheon and Service Awards on Thursday, December 8, 2022. A little over a year ago TJC began the necessary work of meeting our neighbors and getting to know the Napier Sudekum neighborhood, a community we are soon to call home once our new building is completed early next year on (NAME OF STREET).

Over the past year, we collaborated with community-based organizations and community members to host and promote resources and services, identify needs and barriers, and look for ways that we could best serve our neighborhood. We hosted parent and caregiver exhibitions, vaccine events, record expungement clinics, driver's license reinstatement clinics, listening sessions, and events for the entire family.

The awards luncheon was filled with a celebration of local heroes and leaders committed to endless service projects and initiatives in the Napier Sudekum neighborhood. TJC is holistically building a community by recognizing unsung heroes like Sterling Wright, who is known to community residents and friends as "100" in reference to his complete dedication to community. Sterling was awarded the Harvester award for his work of sowing seeds of community togetherness and love by being of service to his community. Sterling shared, "This is the first time I have ever received an award for anything I've done. I really didn't think anybody noticed, or that it was a big deal. I'm "100", and this is what I do."

Other awards included the Boots on the Ground Award, Rising Star Award, Health Hero, and more listed below. Chanda Freeman, TJC's health advocacy program manager, says, "we were absolutely delighted to have an opportunity to recognize the courageous work of this informal

coalition of residents and community partners who joined efforts to collectively address the needs of residents in the Napier Community.”

It brought us so much joy to host such a powerful and moving event that highlighted the soul of the community and the unwavering devotion of leaders committed to strengthening the neighborhood.

Below is the full list of honorees

*Boots on the Ground Award – Bridge Ministry*

*Rising Star Award – Jerica Sanders*

*Strengthening Community Award – Jameka Usher*

*Community Anchor Award – Pruitt Library*

*Health Hero – Neighborhood Health*

*Harvester Award – Sterling Wright*

*Oracle Award – Agnes Scott*

*TJC Community Catalyst Award – Janet King*

*‘Tis the Season – Lindsley Church of Christ*

*Financial Freedom Award – Darryl Hill (Woodbine Community Org.)*

*Technology KING Award – Best Buy*

*Community Champion Award – Tennessee Justice Center*

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[About Tennessee Justice Center / www.tnjustice.org](http://www.tnjustice.org)

For over 26 years, the Tennessee Justice Center has been standing with vulnerable Tennessee families and helping them access basic necessities of life. Since opening our doors in 1996, TJC has used lawsuits, legislation and coalition building to overcome injustice, winning \$2 billion in health care and hundreds of millions in financial and nutrition assistance for Tennesseans. Aside from lawsuits, TJC helps assist seniors and other individuals with TennCare, SNAP and other public benefit programs.