

# News Release



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## **THDA honors Dwayne Spencer with Tennessee's Best award**

**March 6, 2023** – Tennessee Housing Development Agency recognized Dwayne Spencer with a 2022 Tennessee's Best award for his efforts to champion affordable housing in Tennessee.

Spencer has worked in nonprofit management for 29 years and has led Memphis Habitat since 2001. He has extensive experience working with a wide range of community constituencies to create strategic partnerships and impactful collaborations.

Spencer received the Tennessee's Best award for Housing Leadership, which is given to individuals who make significant contributions in increasing the availability or awareness of affordable housing.

"THDA is proud to recognize Dwayne for his contributions to affordable housing in the Memphis area," said THDA Executive Director Ralph Perrey. "We value his dedication and are proud of his advocacy in West Tennessee."

Since joining Memphis Habitat, Spencer has grown the organization from a 9-member staff to more than 50 employees and increased its annual budget from \$1 million to \$18 million. Spencer has also overseen an increase in the number of families Memphis Habitat serves, with approximately 250-plus being helped annually.

Today, Memphis Habitat ranks in the top 25 home producing affiliates and in the top five for home repairs out of more than 1,200 Habitat affiliates nationwide.

"I'm really honored," said Dwayne Spencer. "It feels amazing to be recognized for 21 years of passionate work."

The Tennessee's Best awards honor outstanding individuals and organizations with significant contributions to affordable housing in Tennessee. In addition to the Housing Leadership Award, other categories include the Director's Award, Neighborhood Stabilization Award, Regional Impact Award and the Legacy Award.

The awards were presented during the annual Tennessee Housing Conference in March. The conference is held annually to bring together housing professionals from across the state and country to discuss important housing issues and their impact on Tennessee.

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**As the State's housing finance agency, the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA) is a self-sufficient, publicly accountable entity of the State of Tennessee. Our purpose is to meaningfully expand affordable housing opportunities for Tennesseans. More information about THDA can be found online at [THDA.org](http://THDA.org).**

