



# Housing Authority of the City of Erie Wins National Excellence Award For Wangari Maathai Tree Project

The Housing Authority of the City of Erie (HACE) has been chosen as a recipient of the NAHRO Award of Excellence for its Wangari Maathai Tree Project.

In 1964, HACE former Executive Director, the late John Horan graduated from St. Benedict College in Atchison, KS. That same year, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Winner Wangari Maathai graduated from its sister college Mount St. Scholastica, also in Atchison. Maathai, from Kenya, was founder of the Greenbelt Movement responsible for creating 6,000 tree nurseries, which resulted in the planting of 6 million trees.

This inspired Mr. Horan to work with residents, community groups, and volunteers from within the HACE family to plant 1,000 trees, setting up nurseries in eight HACE communities. Once the trees reach maturity, they will be planted throughout HACE communities providing beauty for years to come!

“This program celebrates the accomplishments of services that our members do each and every day for their residents and community to ensure a safe and affordable place to call home,” said NAHRO Acting CEO John Bohm.

Official presentation of NAHRO National Awards of Excellence will take place in New Orleans, LA during the NAHRO National Conference & Exhibition.

(Excerpt from NAHRO press release as published in HACE *News & Views* Summer 2016)