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****PRESS RELEASE FOR FRIDAY****

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Two YNDC Staff and The Raymond John Wean Foundation Receive Statewide Awards at the Ohio Community Development Corporation Annual Conference!

YOUNGSTOWN (October 2, 2015) – On Friday, October 2, the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) and The Raymond John Wean Foundation (Wean Foundation) collected three of the seven statewide awards made by the Ohio Community Development Corporation Association (OCDCA) at its 31st annual conference in Kent, Ohio. Ian Beniston, YNDC Executive Director was selected as CDC Staff Member of the Year; Tiffany Sokol, YNDC Housing Director was selected for the Stephanie Bevens Award; and The Raymond John Wean Foundation was selected as the CDC Partner of the Year for its support and work with YNDC and the Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership. These selections were made by a panel of third-party judges who evaluated the efforts of the outstanding work of nominees from across the State of Ohio over the past twelve months.

"These awards are further recognition of the hard work of our collective team, which includes not only YNDC and The Wean Foundation, but also the City of Youngstown, many committed funders and stakeholders, and thousands of engaged residents and volunteers. We will build on this momentum to do even more impactful work across the City of Youngstown. REVITALIZE!," said Ian Beniston, YNDC Executive Director.

About YNDC: The Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) is a multifaceted neighborhood development and planning organization launched to catalyze strategic neighborhood reinvestment in neighborhoods throughout the City of Youngstown. For more information on the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation please visit our website at: <u>www.yndc.org</u>.

About OCDCA: The Ohio CDC Association is a statewide membership organization of Community Development Corporations that engages in capacity-building, advocacy and public policy development that fosters socially and economically healthy communities. Over its 25-plus year history, Ohio CDC Association has been listening to Community Development Corporations in Ohio and responding with resources to help its members with capacity-building, advocacy and public policy development with the mission of fostering socially and economically healthy communities. For more information about OCDCA, please visit OCDCA's website at http://www.ohiocdc.org/.

Photo Attachments: OCDCA Award Photos: Ian Beniston, OCDCA Staff Member of the Year; The Raymond John Wean Foundation, OCDCA CDC Partner of the Year; Tiffany Sokol, Stephanie Bevens Award; Group Photo.