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## GWINNETT COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

**Lawrenceville, Georgia (January 23, 2013)** – Gwinnett County's Financial Services department along with the Communications Division received the 2012 Excellent Award from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) communications efforts.

The NSP program, administered for Gwinnett County by WFN Consulting, was created to help slow the decline of neighborhoods where housing values and conditions are deteriorating due to the presence of foreclosed homes. In addition, the program provides affordable housing to eligible low, moderate and middle income homebuyers. Using state and federal funding, the NSP program buys, makes necessary repairs and resells the houses to new homebuyers, employing 35 to 50 people per home.

"Gwinnett County's Neighborhood Stabilization Program has provided a unique opportunity to achieve not only the dream of homeownership for income-qualified citizens, but to also strategically acquire those housing assets in neighborhoods that were most affected by the housing crisis," said Nick Autorina, President of WFN Consulting.

Since 2009, the NSP Program in Gwinnett County has repaired 134 homes, with 119 sold or under contract. To date, funds utilized include \$19.97 million in grant funds and \$16.46 million in program income (monies received from the sale of properties).

"Although not a panacea for the current economy, the NSP program created jobs and turned these once 'toxic-assets' back into owner-occupied, tax-revenue generating properties for the County," said Autorina. "With the support of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners, WFN staff was able to craft a unique branding strategy with the Communications Division to ensure this program was marketed efficiently and that the message reached the targeted audience. It was team effort and exemplifies the long-standing partnership with the Gwinnett BOC and the many professionals who support our on-going management of HUD Programs for the County."

*For more than 30 years, WFN Consulting has delivered expert analysis, customized training and program management to municipal and county leaders in search of meaningful and lasting community improvements on behalf of the families they serve. WFN Consulting equips local jurisdictions with all the necessary planning, research, application assistance, implementation, monitoring, reporting assistance and oversight of grants funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD).*

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