



**Media Contact:**  
Brian Hollenback, President  
Renaissance Rock Island  
100 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 109  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
309-737-2700  
[brian@teamrockisland.com](mailto:brian@teamrockisland.com)

**For Immediate Release 4/8/2015**

**Brian Hollenback Receives Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago Community First® Pioneer Award**

Rock Island, April 8, 2015 – On Monday, March 16, The Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (Bank) announced the Illinois recipients of its 2015 Community First® Awards. The awards recognize outstanding achievements of the Bank’s member institutions and their local partners as they work together to strengthen their communities through affordable housing and economic development initiatives. Award categories include partnership, project or program, pioneer, and emerging leader. Award winners identify a nonprofit organization to receive up to \$10,000. At its member meeting on March 16, in Oak Brook, Illinois, the Bank honored Brian Hollenback with the Community First® Pioneer Award.

**Pioneer Award** Brian Hollenback, President of Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation, received the pioneer award in recognition of his work leading the organization’s efforts to revitalize the city of Rock Island, Illinois. Mr. Hollenback’s achievements are substantial, including: triple-digit increases in organizational net worth and income, a successful New Markets Tax Credit transaction, more than \$46 million invested in housing, the creation and/or retention of over 2,000 jobs, and an overall economic impact of \$233 million. Modern Woodmen Bank ([www.mwabank.com](http://www.mwabank.com)), also located in Rock Island, is a proud supporter of Mr. Hollenback and Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation. Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation accepted the \$10,000 award on behalf of Mr. Hollenback.

“The Pioneer Award celebrates a true community development pioneer who tirelessly devotes his time, talents, and energy to make Rock Island a better place for everyone. It was a pleasure to recognize our members and their community partners,” said Suzi Thackston, Community Investment Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.

True to his character, Mr. Hollenback paid it forward by investing the award to community based initiatives. A check presentation for each took place on Friday, April 3, 2015:

- **Christian Care, Rock Island, IL: to support services to homeless veterans**
- **Robert Young Center, Rock Island, IL: to support transitional housing services to women**
- **Trinity Health Foundation, Rock Island, IL: to support health care services to the community**
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Center, Rock Island, IL: to support youth program services**
- **Ballet Quad Cities: to support the arts**
- **Moline Fire Fighter Association Local 581, Moline, IL: through the Annual Reverend Jack Hollenback Charity to support local charities**
- **Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, East Moline, IL: to support building improvements**
- **Turtle Clan Development Services, Chicago, IL: to support the Native American Learning Center & Health Care Clinic**
- **Enos Park, Springfield, IL: to support redevelopment efforts**

—MORE—

**About Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation** Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation (GROWTH) is a 501(c)(3) Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO); To date, GROWTH has impacted nearly 1000 units of housing in Rock Island, including the construction of eleven new construction homes since 2012, and creation of 223 units of housing downtown Rock Island. GROWTH is housed under Renaissance Rock Island, an umbrella name for three inter-connected organizations dedicated to the revitalization of Rock Island- of which Brian Hollenback is President. In addition to GROWTH, the Development Association of Rock Island, Inc. (DARI) focuses on commercial and industrial development; and The Downtown Rock Island Arts & Entertainment District, Inc. (The District) markets the downtown and produces unique downtown events.

**About MWABank** Based in Rock Island since its founding in 2003, Modern Woodmen Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Modern Woodmen of America. 31 people are employed in the downtown Rock Island headquarters at 100 17th Street. With approximately \$250 million in assets and 25,000 account holders, Modern Woodmen Bank serves Modern Woodmen members nationwide and the general public in the greater Quad-City area.

**About the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago** The Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago is a \$71.8 billion wholesale bank serving the needs of member housing finance institutions located in Illinois and Wisconsin. Our mission is to partner with our member shareholders to provide them competitively priced funding, a reasonable return on their investment, and support for community investment activities. The U.S. Congress created the Federal Home Loan Bank System, which includes 12 Federal Home Loan Banks, in 1932 to promote housing finance, but each Bank is wholly owned by its member institutions. For more information about the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, please visit [www.fhlbc.com](http://www.fhlbc.com) or @FHLBC on Twitter. "Community First" and "Downpayment Plus" are registered trademarks of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.



**(above) Check Presentation to Brian Hollenback, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago's Pioneer Award Recipient**  
*Left to right: Brian Hollenback, President and CEO, Rock Island Economic Growth Corporation; Michael Peterson, Associate, Rock Island Community Growth Corporation; Amy Clark, Grant Administration Director, Rock Island Community Growth Corporation; Beth Payne, Administration Director, Rock Island Community Growth Corporation; Matt Feldman, President and CEO, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago; Mark Sperfslage, Executive Vice President, Modern Woodmen Bank; Steve Rosenbaum, Chairman of the Board, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago; Suzi Thackston, Community Investment Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago.*



**(above) Check Presentation to Robert Young Center for Douglas Park Place to support transitional housing services to women.**

*Left to right: Brian Hollenback, President and CEO, Renaissance Rock Island; Ametra Carrol-Castaneda, Mental Health Professional/ Site Coordinator, UnityPoint Health - Trinity, and Dennis Duke, COO of Robert Young Center.*



**(above) Check Presentation to Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center to support youth programs.**

*Left to right: S. Edward Yancy, Board Member for Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, Reverend Dwight Ford Director, Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, and Brian Hollenback, President, Renaissance Rock Island.*



**(above) Check Presentation to Christian Care, Rock Island, IL: to support services to homeless veterans**

*Left to right: Brian Hollenback, President, Renaissance Rock Island and Elaine Winters, Chief Executive Officer, Christian Care.*



**(above) Check Presentation to Trinity Foundation to support health care services to the community**  
 Left to right: Marika V. Jones, President, UnityPoint Health - Trinity Health Foundation and Brian Hollenback, President, Renaissance Rock Island.



**(above) Check Presentation to Moline Firefighters Local 581, Moline, IL: through the Annual Reverend Jack Hollenback Charity to support local charities**  
 Left to right: Erik Brown, Moline Firefighter and Pancake Breakfast committee member, Dave Estes, Moline Firefighter and Pancake Breakfast committee member, Brian Hollenback, President, Renaissance Rock Island.



**(above) Check Presentation to Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy for building improvements.**  
 Left to right: Scott Turnipseed, Principle, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy, Sullivan Ahern, Kindergarten student, Mary Ahern, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student, Theodore Ahern, 4<sup>th</sup> grade student, Josephine Ahern, soon-to-be preschool student, and Brian Hollenback, President, Renaissance Rock Island.