

Betterton declines \$250,000 HUD Community Builder Fellowship

Charles Betterton, who was selected for one of 230 Community Builders Fellowships out of 8,500 applicants by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), has declined the offer. The HUD Fellowship, worth about \$250,000 over two years, includes study at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Betterton worked for HUD for several years before he was appointed Director of the Kankakee Community Development Agency in 1988. Since leaving the City of Kankakee in 1990, Charles received a master's in community economic development from New Hampshire College. Recently he has been focusing on CENTER SPACE and the University for Successful Living (USL), two non-profit organizations he founded to provide development training and consulting services through an international network of Centers for Successful Living.

"I decided to decline the offer from HUD because I believe the work we are doing through these organizations has larger national impact than what I could accomplish at HUD," Betterton said. "For example, Les Brown donated over



Charles Betterton

\$50,000 worth of his services last month to support the Success Center Partnership that we created for the Muncie, Indiana Housing Authority. On Nov. 17, we are sponsoring a workshop with Brian Tracy on Time Empowerment and Advanced Selling Strategies at the Rosemont Convention Center," he added.

On Nov. 19, the USL will produce a workshop and seminar with Mark Victor Hansen, co-author of the best-selling *Chicken Soup for the Soul* Series, at Olivet Nazarene

University which The Herald/Country Market is co-sponsoring. During that event, a special session will be conducted over lunch for executives of United Ways, Chambers of Commerce, private foundations, Public Housing Authorities, and Urban Leagues from all across the Midwest "Our objective is to help these community leaders discover how to create a Center for Successful Living in their organization or community and work together to co-produce events with USL experts like Les Brown, Brian Tracy and Mark Victor Hansen," said Betterton.

Later this month, Betterton and his associates, who are developing new training programs to help people, especially residents of public housing authorities, learn how to learn, will have a booth at the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials in San Antonio, TX. There they will be presenting and demonstrating how they can help public housing authorities help their residents empower themselves through leadership development, youth empowerment and self-employment training programs.