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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**JULIETTE FOWLER COMMUNITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR BEN BROOKS  
TO RECEIVE LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNANCE AWARD FROM LEADINGAGE TEXAS**

*A board member for 16 years and board chair since 2018, Brooks had made extraordinary contributions to the well-being of seniors, the employees who serve them, and the organization's mission*

**DALLAS, TEXAS – May 23, 2022** – LeadingAge Texas presents the 2022 Leadership in Governance Award to Juliette Fowler Communities Board Chair Ben Brooks on Monday, May 23, during its annual conference this week at the Renaissance Dallas Addison Hotel. The Excellence in Governance Award is given to voluntary leaders who have served with distinction on the governing board of a LeadingAge Texas member organization and thereby made an outstanding contribution to the well-being of seniors, to the employees who serve them, and to organization's nonprofit mission.

"When I think about Ben and his leadership of the board since 2018, he has implemented a complete overhaul of board governance, responding to a living wage for those of us who work in this industry, in addition to navigating the pandemic, launching a capital campaign, and helping us negotiate the development and construction of The Peak, new housing for limited-to-moderate wealth seniors," said Nicole Gann, CEO and president, Juliette Fowler Communities. "His contributions and leadership have been significant in advancing the mission of our 130-year organization to serve vulnerable youth and older adults."

The recipient of this award must meet the following criteria: a visionary leader who has, as a member of the governing board, advanced the mission of the member community; a significant contributor of time, effort, and expertise; exceptional service beyond the call of duty; a history of personally significant financial contributions, or an exceptional act of philanthropy through which the mission of the organization has been advanced. Additionally, the recipient must have demonstrated expertise in and openness to best practices in nonprofit governance and outstanding leadership in achieving specific goals and objectives of the member organization.

"It is humbling to receive this award, and we certainly appreciate LeadingAge Texas giving Juliette Fowler Communities this recognition," said Ben Brooks, honoree. "It's not recognition for me, it's recognition of the amazing board we have had all of these years and the incredible leadership of Juliette Fowler Communities CEO and President Nicole Gann."

While board chair, Brooks demonstrated his passion for addressing a national crisis – the lack of housing for limited-to-moderate wealth seniors, otherwise known as the "forgotten middle." Taking time away from his own work as an attorney and traveling to the East Coast to explore and visit sites that provide this type of housing opened his eyes to the exciting possibilities of bringing this type of housing onto the campus of Juliette Fowler Communities. The firsthand knowledge he gained enabled him to present the idea to the board with detail and understanding, generating their enthusiasm and support for the project. This October, JFC will open 144 units in a new three-story building called The Peak for residents with limited-to-moderate

wealth, making Dallas a city working to address this looming crisis. His skillset and dedication also helped JFC navigate the City of Dallas to secure approval during a competitive tax credit application process.

Since 2018 Brooks has served as the organization's board chair overseeing a 30-member board from three states. He serves on the executive, finance, strategic planning and building committees along with the Fowler Christian Apartments, Juliette Fowler Properties and Juliette Fowler Foundation boards. As a member of the campaign leadership team for the capital campaign he has been instrumental in raising \$2.7 million for capital improvements, capacity, growth, technology, and infrastructure. Brooks and his own family have also contributed generously over the years, setting the example for others by making meaningful gifts to both the annual fund and the campaign.

Additionally, he served two three-year terms on the board from 1995 to 2001 on the following committees: Program Services Committee (1995-1997); vice chair of Property and Insurance Committee and Strategic Planning Committee (1996-1998); vice chair of Administrative Services (1998-2000); and Program Services Committee and Strategic Planning Committee (1999-2000). In 2013, he began serving on the JFC board once again as chair of the development committee (2013-2015); and vice chair of the Juliette Fowler Foundation Board and Juliette Fowler Properties Board (2014-2017).

"A visionary leader who goes the extra mile in all he does, he is an integral part of the Juliette Fowler Communities team, who is always available to provide counsel whenever needed," added Gann. "Ben manages a 30-member board of directors from three states and makes himself available for counsel whenever needed. A diligent worker with strategic vision and a passion to serve, his leadership has fueled growth, financial stability, and sustainability – all strategic goals of the board – while playing a key role in addressing a national housing crisis."

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**Juliette Fowler Communities** is a unique faith-based, intergenerational community of residents at various life-stages. Located on 20 picturesque acres, Juliette Fowler Communities provides independent and assisted living, a Five-Star Quality Rated skilled nursing and rehabilitation center, memory care and affordable senior housing. As the only certified I'm Still Here® Center for Excellence in Dementia Care in North Texas and one of only two in Texas, Fowler's program employs evidence-based techniques to adapt experiences to an individual's cognitive abilities and strengths. It has also been named a Great Place to Work in the Aging Services Industry in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. Children, youth, and family services at Fowler include foster and adoption services, a residential program for women ages 18-24 at risk for homelessness due to neglect, abuse, and aging out of the foster care system, and a new Youth Support Center – a one-stop location to help Dallas youth, both boys and girls ages 12-24, escape or avoid human trafficking and exploitation. Visit [fowlercommunities.org](http://fowlercommunities.org) or call 214.827.0813.