

Community Land Trust Wins U.N. Award

The Burlington Community Land Trust has won one of 17 United Nations awards in recognition of its efforts to provide housing for low-income people, the trust's director announced Wednesday.

The award is part of U.N. recognition of 1987 as the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, trust Director Tim McKenzie said in a news release. The trust received the award for "exemplary local efforts ... to improve housing and services for low-income people in (the) community," the release said.

The Burlington land trust was one of 180 programs evaluated by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department, which launched a nationwide search of innovative programs for participation in the U.N. commemoration. Because of the award, the land trust's program will be documented by HUD and submitted to the United Nations for worldwide dissemination.

McKenzie said the land trust is excited about the recognition.

"I'm proud of this program and invite the entire city to share in the accomplishment of its community land trust," he said.

But he added that he still is deeply concerned about the federal government's shift away from housing assistance.

"Sure, Burlington has taken bold steps to address its affordable hous-

ing problem, but really, what choice is there if you happen to believe that affordable housing is a key component of a balanced local economy?" he said. "Make no mistake about it, the feds have a clear responsibility and role to play in housing that

(President) Reagan is turning his back on and that the local communities are in poor position to replace."

The land trust will accept the award in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., Oct. 6.