



May 9, 2012

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

Partnerships are meaningful and we can achieve great things together.

Here are two examples from the past month showing that principle at work at the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) – one getting under way, another with amazing success to report after just one year.

Energy Roadmap Partnership

The first phase of a comprehensive look at all 2,255 SDHC affordable housing units for possible improvements in energy and water efficiency began last week in collaboration with San Diego Gas & Electric Company. The project was recently presented to the Natural Resources and Culture Committee of the San Diego City Council.

The "energy roadmap" may identify additional ways to reduce energy costs for low-income families and enhance energy sustainability, a priority for SDHC. The study is being done at no cost to SDHC and will be completed by end of 2012.

Watch the video of the council committee presentation. [Click here for CityTV, then select Agenda item 13: Energy Efficiency.](#)
[Click here for PowerPoint Presentation.](#)

The assessments follow ongoing rehabilitations of 244 units at three major SDHC properties that illustrate the kinds of steps that may be taken to conserve energy and water. They include a rooftop solar photovoltaic system to generate electricity and provide hot water at Parker-Kier Apartments. Elsewhere, units are getting energy-efficient windows, Energy Star-rated appliances and low-flow plumbing fixtures.



Parker-Kier Apartments



Project 25 - Addressing Homelessness

For James Marsh, a federal housing voucher provided by SDHC through a partnership with United Way of San Diego has meant a new start on life.

Marsh, 48, is among the formerly homeless adults taken off the streets by Project 25, which addresses chronic homelessness and the burden it places on public services. Marsh, a former restaurant worker who had been homeless and battling alcoholism since arriving in San Diego in 1998, now lives in his own apartment. He also receives support services funded by the County of San Diego. Marsh said in a United Way news conference last month that Project 25 has "given me so many great opportunities. I want to show them that I can succeed."

SDHC was one of the first agencies in the nation to make federal housing vouchers available to provide long-term housing for chronically homeless individuals. SDHC provided United Way with 25 sponsor-based vouchers under approval granted in 2010 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Analyzing the first-year results of Project 25, United Way found total costs of public services attributable to each person in the program were reduced to \$3.4 million in 2011 from more than \$11 million in 2010. The per-person average was \$97,000 in 2011, down from \$317,000 per person in 2010.

[Watch the video of the news conference on SDHC's YouTube channel.](#)



Success Story

Under Project 25, James Marsh went from:

- 54 ambulance rides in 2010 to one in 2011
- 51 emergency room visits in 2010 to one in 2011
- 34 jail days in 2010 to one in 2011

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I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry
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San Diego Housing Commission

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