



August 17, 2012

## Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry  
President & CEO

With the help from our federal partner — the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) — we have been able to reach out into the community to keep children safe, as well as prepare for the upcoming winter season to protect some of our most vulnerable citizens.

## Blood-Lead Testing: Protecting Children

One hundred and twenty-five children were tested for hazardous lead in their blood at a community festival Saturday in a screening event sponsored by SDHC's ["Home Safe Home" program](#). Of those, six tested positive for lead.

It was the largest of five blood-lead screening events conducted since October 27, 2010, as part of "Home Safe Home," which receives its funding from HUD grants. To date, 384 children have been tested.

The testing, conducted in partnership with the Environmental Health Coalition and La Maestra Community Health Clinic, uses blood samples from a pin prick to a finger and portable analyzers purchased by SDHC. It takes about three minutes to get results.

Parents of children who test positive are referred to local clinics for further evaluation;

they also are offered home inspections to help identify and eliminate the source of any lead poisoning.

[Watch the video of the blood lead level testing on SDHC's YouTube channel](#)

[Read the SDHC news release](#)



### SDHC "Home Safe Home" Program

Children living in homes built before 1978 are considered to be at higher risk for exposure to lead from lead-based paint.



Portable blood lead analyzers purchased by SDHC with HUD grant.

## Sponsor-Based Vouchers: Assisting Homeless San Diegans

By the end of the year, 150 homeless downtown San Diegans may find a place to call home as SDHC prepares to distribute rental assistance vouchers to non-profit organizations that provide services and housing. The program is SDHC's largest-ever release of Sponsor-based housing vouchers and is funded by HUD.

SDHC currently is receiving proposals from non-profit organizations applying for the vouchers. They must also provide supportive services, and the Request for Proposals (RFP) weighted rating system contains incentives for organizations assisting the chronically homeless. Project 25, a similar effort by SDHC in partnership with the United Way of San Diego County, helped stabilize lives and reduced costs of public resources by millions.

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

[Watch the video of the Project 25 news conference on SDHC's YouTube channel](#)



150 Sponsor-based vouchers will assist non-profits serving homeless San Diegans.

## Emergency Winter Shelter: Planning Ahead

SDHC will again administer a temporary emergency winter shelter for single homeless adults prior to this year's completion of Connections Housing, a one-stop homeless service center in downtown San Diego.

The contingency plan was proposed by SDHC to bridge the period between December 1, when the temporary shelter usually starts up, and the opening of Connections Housing, expected at the end of December. City Council on July 23 unanimously approved the plan, which provides shelter for 223 adults. Also approved was the continued operation of a 150-bed shelter for homeless military veterans.

[Read the SDHC news release](#)



City's Emergency Winter Shelter will open December 1, 2012.

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
San Diego Housing Commission

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