SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION

SDHC Agency Update

We're About People

October 17, 2013

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry President & CEO

October is "Housing America Month."

Children whose families receive federal rental assistance from the San **Diego Housing** Commission (SDHC) helped us commemorate this important

recognition.

That's one of the pieces of news I will share with you, along with the visits to San Diego from California Governor Jerry Brown and Ophelia Basgal, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Western Regional Administrator.

"What Home Means to Me" Poster and Essay Contest

SDHC asked children living in our affordable housing apartments or whose families receive federal rental assistance from SDHC to share their thoughts about what having their own home means to them.

Participants described their homes with phrases like:

- "A place where my family is happy."
- "A peaceful place to rest."
- "The best place to be always!"

SDHC and Partners Meet with HUD's Western **Regional Administrator**

Ophelia Basgal, HUD's Western Regional Administrator, met with Coalition, the County of San Diego, Diego office on September 25 to hear about lead-hazard control programs in the City and County of



our successful "Home Safe Home" Program, which has received \$22.47 million in grants from HUD since 2002

SDHC's "Home Safe Home" Program focuses on home repairs such as removing or neutralizing toxic lead paint at homes frequented by program also has conducted eight which 646 children were tested for elevated blood-lead levels.

With HUD funding, SDHC bought detect blood-lead levels easily. The pinprick to a child's finger and

Three winners were selected. They represent the 13,352 children, younger than 18 years of age, whose families receive federal rental assistance from SDHC.

Participants and their families were honored by City of San Diego Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and City Councilmembers at last week's City Council meeting.

The artwork and essays were on display at the lobby in City Hall, where a news conference was held. I was joined by Gloria, City Councilmember Lorie Zapf and SDHC Commissioner Ben Moraga on October 8.



Interim Mayor Todd Gloria announced the winners of

SUHUS what Home Means to Me Doster & essay contest at City Hall on October 8, 2013.

The artwork and essays from all of the children who participated are featured on SDHC's website, www.sdhc.org.

The City Council also presented SDHC with a proclamation declaring October 2013 to be "Housing America Month" in the City of San Diego, and the contest participants and their families were also recognized.

Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel

Read the SDHC news release

SDHC at California Governor's Bill-Signing Ceremony

I attended California Governor Jerry Brown's bill-signing ceremony on October 10, 2013, at Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD), one of SDHC's key partners and the San Diego region's largest provider of housing and social services for homeless veterans.

One of the bills Governor Brown signed, AB 639, asks California voters in June to allow the state to use \$600 million of previously approved state bonds to create affordable apartments for low-income veterans.

SDHC supported this legislation.

We have invested a total of \$8.7 million to help VVSD create 344 transitional beds since 2006.



Mural at the Veterans Village of San Diego

SDHC is also partnering with VVSD to create a transitional housing program for 36 homeless veterans. SDHC will provide temporary rental assistance, and VVSD will provide specialized supportive services.

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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Read SDHC's 2012 Annual Report & Portfolio



Read SDHC's Creating Affordable Housing Report







Established in 1979, the San Diego Housing Commission provides a variety of award-winning affordable housing programs and services that stimulate the local economy, revitalize neighborhoods, and impact the lives of more than 125,000 individuals in the City of San Diego annually.

San Diego Housing Commission

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