



May 30, 2013

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

The last few weeks have been filled with great news for homeless veterans and low-income residents of the City of San Diego—and for the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC).

We learned that the federal government has awarded SDHC more housing vouchers to help homeless veterans rebuild their lives. And we saw the vision for a new affordable apartment complex in North Park become reality with the grand opening of Kalos Apartments.

In addition, I'm pleased to share with you that SDHC recently received two awards from local organizations.

Additional Housing Vouchers for Homeless Veterans

More help is on the way for homeless veterans in the City of San Diego because of 185 federal housing vouchers awarded to SDHC.

San Diego Mayor Bob Filner announced the additional vouchers at our SDHC news conference on May 23 at City Hall. Joining me was also Jessica Chamberlain, LCSW, Chief of Social Work Service for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in San Diego, and Frank Riley, director of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) San Diego office.

HUD allocates these vouchers through its Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program. The VASH voucher program was created in 2007 to help homeless veterans rebuild their lives.



San Diego Mayor Bob Filner

SDHC Receives "Healthy Kids Champion" Award



(Left to right) San Diego City Council President Todd Gloria and SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry

SDHC was honored on April 23 with a "Healthy Kids Champion" Award from the Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) for its ongoing work to protect children and families from the dangers of lead-based paint in older homes.

Since 2002, SDHC has received \$22.47 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the "Home Safe Home" program.

SDHC's lead paint remediation work funded by these HUD grants has made 1,403 residential units lead safe for children since 2002.

Since April 28, 2010, SDHC's "Home Safe Home" program also has partnered with EHC and La Maestra Community Health Centers to test the blood-lead levels of 646 children at eight community events. Thirteen children tested positive for high lead levels and were referred for medical evaluation and treatment.

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

We were also joined at the news conference by Rodrigo, a formerly homeless 55-year-old U.S. Army veteran who has benefited from a VASH voucher.

Homeless veterans must be participants in the VA program, which offers clinical health and case management services, before they are eligible to receive a VASH voucher, which SDHC provides.

These 185 additional VASH vouchers raise the total number to 620, which have been awarded to the San Diego Housing Commission since 2008.

[Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel](#)

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

Grand Opening of Affordable Apartments in North Park

Built with financial support from SDHC, Kalos is an 82 residential unit apartment complex in North Park that is affordable to low- and very low-income families. I participated in the grand opening ceremony for Kalos on May 17.



To make the construction of Kalos possible, SDHC provided a loan of more than \$7 million toward the total development cost of more than \$28 million. SDHC has the option to buy the property after 15 years.

The good news is that SDHC's investment requires Kalos to remain affordable for 55 years.

SDHC also authorized the issuance of more than \$14 million in multifamily, tax-exempt revenue bonds to help fund the construction of this important development.

Developed by Community HousingWorks, Kalos features one-, two-, and three-bedroom apartments. Kalos is within walking distance of bus lines, employment centers and other neighborhood amenities as well.

[Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel](#)

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

"People in Preservation" Award for Hotel Sandford

SDHC and its partners earned a "People in Preservation" Award on May 23 from the "Save Our Heritage Organisation," a local historical preservation group, for the rehabilitation of the 99-year-old Hotel Sandford in downtown San Diego.



Through collaboration, Hotel Sandford was restored to its original character and look, and preserves senior housing for the next 99 years.

This is the second historical preservation award SDHC has received for the rehabilitation of Hotel Sandford, which was built in 1914. The City of San Diego Historical Resources Board, which designated Hotel Sandford as a historical landmark on December 2, 1987, presented a "Historic Preservation" Award in the category of architectural rehabilitation to SDHC and its partners on May 24, 2012.

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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