



March 15, 2013

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

Years of hard work to create a one-stop housing and homeless services center in the City of San Diego culminated with the grand opening this week of Connections Housing Downtown.

Congratulations to co-developers Affirmed Housing Group and PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) and all the partners.

Connections Housing Downtown represents the creativity, innovation and teamwork needed to continue to resolve the issue of homelessness.

And I am pleased to tell you SDHC will continue to be involved with Connections Housing Downtown for years to come.

Connections Housing Downtown Grand Opening

More than 600 people attended the March 11 grand opening of Connections Housing Downtown, 1250 Sixth Avenue, which combines 150 interim housing beds and 73 permanent studios with convenient access to multiple supportive services and a community health clinic under one roof.



Connections Housing Downtown Partners gather for a photo opportunity after the Grand Opening

SDHC has provided 89 federal housing vouchers to support the permanent residential studios and 16 special needs emergency units.

Another 50 housing vouchers will help formerly homeless individuals who have stabilized their lives and are ready to transition out of Connections Housing Downtown find housing in the community while they continue to receive supportive services from PATH.

PATH operates the facility and co-developed it with Affirmed Housing Group. SDHC contributed a \$2 million loan toward the \$38 million cost of renovating the 12-story former site of the historic San Diego Athletic Club to create Connections Housing Downtown.



Connections Housing Downtown has 73 permanent residential studio units

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

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

Myron – A Formerly Homeless Veteran Finds a Home

A little more than three months ago, U.S. Army veteran Myron Wiltz, 59, struggled to get by, living on the streets of San Diego and seeking help at the city's Veterans Winter Shelter.

Today, after 11 years homeless, he has a permanent place to call home at Connections Housing Downtown and is looking for work.



PATH and other service providers at Connections Housing Downtown are helping Wiltz, a Vietnam-era veteran and former janitor, look for a job. He recently graduated from trucking school and says his future looks bright now.

Wiltz moved into Connections Housing Downtown at the end of February with the help of a housing voucher provided by SDHC and funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

View previous [Email Updates](#)



View videos on SDHC's channel on



Read SDHC's [Creating Affordable Housing Report](#)

