



March 1, 2013

### Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry  
President & CEO

I'm excited to share with you how the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) and our partners are working together to address affordable housing challenges in San Diego.

Affordable housing is increasing with the recently completed renovation of a 100-year-old downtown hotel and the groundbreaking for 250 new affordable housing units. Free screenings for childhood lead poisoning are helping parents in older neighborhoods. And projects to help the homeless are making a difference.

### Restored Century-Old Hotel Provides Affordable Housing

Destroyed by fire in 2004, the newly renovated The Mason in the heart of downtown San Diego is providing homes for very low-income adults who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Housing Development Partners, a nonprofit affiliate of the San Diego Housing Commission, recently completed a rehabilitation of The Mason, creating 16 permanent affordable housing units and one manager's unit.

SDHC provided a \$2.68 million loan toward the \$3.6 million rehabilitation of the 100-year-old hotel.

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**The Mason's Grand Reopening**  
Nicholas Palou, 50, is thankful to have a home at The Mason.

### Housing for Seniors & Teens Aging Out of Foster Care



SDHC joined the celebration of the groundbreaking February 8 for Celadon at Ninth and Broadway, which will create 250 affordable housing rental units.

SDHC is providing 88 project-based Housing Choice Vouchers that will enable seniors enrolled in the all-inclusive care for the elderly program and very low-income San Diegans to live at Celadon.

The development will also provide homes for teens aging out of foster care.

### 79 Children Tested for Lead Poisoning



**SDHC's "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.

Parents in the Logan Heights community took advantage of free blood testing provided by SDHC's "Home Safe Home" program to detect lead in their children's blood.

Portable blood analyzers purchased by SDHC's "Home Safe Home" program provided immediate results to the 79 children who were tested and their parents. One 9-year-old boy tested positive for high lead levels and was referred for additional medical evaluation.

SDHC partners with the Environmental Health Coalition and La Maestra Community Health Center to conduct these blood-lead level screenings, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The February 26 blood-lead level testing was held at King-Chavez Primary Academy in Logan Heights.

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

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### Donation Stations 'Show Love' for Homeless Programs

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, SDHC joined the "Show Your Love" campaign, urging San Diegans to donate money at one of the Downtown San Diego Partnership's "donation stations" for homeless programs.



**Donation Stations**  
Red, meter-like donation stations make giving to homeless programs easy.

A partner in the Downtown San Diego Partnership's Campaign to End Homelessness, SDHC has directed 125 federal housing vouchers to provide housing for homeless San Diegans.

Money raised through the downtown donation stations pays for furniture, bathroom and kitchen supplies, and other household necessities to help homeless individuals settle into housing that SDHC makes possible.

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### 1,150 at Project Homeless Connect – Record Number

SDHC and its partners provided critical services to 1,150 homeless San Diegans at the seventh annual Project Homeless Connect, a special one-day resource fair held January 30 at Golden Hall in downtown San Diego.

More than 550 volunteers and 71 service providers came together to serve the homeless, providing clothing, shoes, haircuts, dental exams and many other services—all free of charge.



**Among the Major Donations**  
Cleary Company - 1,000 pairs of shoes; SDG&E - 1,200 first-aid kits; ResMed - 1,200 backpacks; Coca-Cola Company - 1,150 bottles of water

SDHC's information technology team and technology business partners—Cox Communications, Windstream and Hewlett Packard—made registration for Project Homeless Connect paperless for the first time. Computers at the entrance streamlined the process and provided real-time information about the services San Diegans received.

SDHC's major organizing partners are Family Health Centers of San Diego, the Interfaith Shelter Network and St. Vincent de Paul Village.

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I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

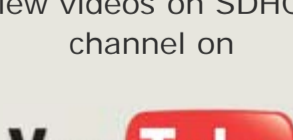
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