



October 31, 2012

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

You can see the long-lasting value of partnerships in major programs at the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC).

One created additional affordable housing throughout our community; another focuses on assistance to homeless San Diegans downtown; and a third protects children.

It's especially rewarding to see the people helped by these efforts as Housing America Month draws to an end.

Creating Affordable Housing Through Public Housing Conversion
Five-Year Anniversary Event
10.22.12



In a special SDHC event held last week, the newly constructed Estrella del Mercado Apartments served as the backdrop for a community gathering on the [fifth anniversary of our landmark agreement](#) with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which resulted in the creation of 810 additional affordable housing units in the City of San Diego.

Families of affordable housing shared their personal stories.



For Joseph McGuire, it provides proximity to much-used public transportation. For Rebecca Atuatasi, it's what she called the "blessing" of affordable rent.

[Watch the event video on SDHC's YouTube channel](#)

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

Honoring SDHC



San Diego City Council proclaimed October 22 "San Diego Housing Commission Affordable Housing Day." Left to right: SDHC President & CEO Richard C. Gentry, Councilmembers David Alvarez and Todd Gloria, and SDHC Chairman of the Board Gary Gramling.



California State Assemblymembers Ben Hueso (center) and Toni Atkins (right) present a State Resolution commending SDHC for its accomplishments in creating affordable housing. The Resolution was also signed by California State Senator Juan Vargas.



Other dignitaries at the event included Ed Moses, HUD Regional

Public Housing Director, Regions IX and X (far right), and Orlando Cabrera, former HUD Assistant Secretary of Indian and Public Affairs (at podium).



Margery Pierce, representing the California Association of Housing Authorities, recognized SDHC for creating and promoting affordable housing.

Closing Out the \$95 Million SDHC Finance Plan

Park Crest Apartments, which will preserve senior housing in the City of San Diego, represents SDHC's final investment under the \$95 million SDHC Finance Plan to create additional affordable housing.



SDHC purchased Park Crest a 71-unit apartment complex (including one managers unit).

The City Heights apartments will remain affordable to its low-income senior residents for 55 years under SDHC's purchase of the property, which closed this month.

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

Sponsor-Based Housing Vouchers to Assist Homeless San Diegans

SDHC is expanding our assistance to non-profit organizations that provide services for homeless San Diegans downtown. We are distributing the first 75 of 150 new rental-assistance vouchers to three organizations that will allow them to rent units on behalf of their clients.



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

This program is SDHC's largest-ever release of Sponsor-Based housing vouchers, funded by HUD. The 75 vouchers were awarded to the following non-profits:

- Father Joe's Villages (20 vouchers)
- Mental Health Systems, Inc. (20 vouchers)
- People Assisting the Homeless (35 vouchers)

Connecting housing to services is a proven way to help homeless individuals rebuild their lives, especially when working with the most vulnerable individuals living on our streets. SDHC was one of the first housing agencies in the nation to provide Sponsor-Based vouchers.

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

Blood-Lead Testing: Protecting Children

Last week, another 79 children were tested for hazardous lead in their blood in screenings offered under SDHC's "Home Safe Home" program. Of those, one tested positive for lead.



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.

It was the sixth free blood-lead screening event conducted since October 27, 2010, using funding from HUD grants.

To date, 463 children have been screened and a total of nine have tested positive for lead in their blood.

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.

[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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