



Media Contact:

Maria Velasquez

Vice President Community Relations & Communications

619-578-7560 mariav@sdhc.org

NEWS RELEASE

November 21, 2011

SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION OPENS CITY OF SAN DIEGO'S EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTER FOR SINGLE HOMELESS ADULTS

Winter Shelter Located at 16th & Newton, Operated by Alpha Project

San Diego, CA— Four days before Thanksgiving, the City of San Diego's emergency winter shelter for homeless adults opens this morning at 8 o'clock. Over the weekend, the installation of the temporary winter shelter located at 16th and Newton Avenue was completed by crews hired by the San Diego Housing Commission. The Housing Commission administers the contract for the City with day-to-day operations for the adult shelter handled by Alpha Project.

"Alpha Project and the San Diego Housing Commission share the same mission, serving those who have no place to call home," said Richard C. Gentry, President & CEO of the Housing Commission. "They have assembled a devoted team of non-profit providers that will offer medical care, mental health screenings, drug and alcohol referrals and job counseling for shelter residents."

The winter tent can provide shelter for up to 220 single adult men and women each night. Priority will be given to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Last year, more than 700 homeless adult men and women were served, during the four months of operation, December 2, 2010 – April 4, 2011.

"We are so grateful that we get to open in time for Thanksgiving this year and that our clients will be able to enjoy a wonderful Holiday meal," said Bob McElroy, President and CEO of Alpha Project. "Thank you to everyone that was involved with preparing the site."

The winter shelter program will have 24-hour private security, as well as increased San Diego Police patrols in and around the facility for the duration of shelter operations, through April 1, 2012.

The budget for this year is projected to be \$618,465: \$442,000 from Housing Commission and City funding sources and \$176,465 from Alpha Project.

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Alpha Project has been the operator of the contract since 1996. It also raises additional funds to provide 20 extra beds, a morning meal, blankets, hygiene supplies, case management and other supportive services throughout the season. Alpha Project has also raised money to open the shelter in time for Thanksgiving. Last year, Alpha Project contributed \$97,087 towards the City's winter shelter program.

For more than a decade, the City has operated a winter shelter program that provides homeless persons protection from inclement weather.

In June 2010, the San Diego Housing Commission was selected by the San Diego Housing Authority to manage the City's emergency winter shelter programs for the homeless. The City Council, however, retains final authority on site selection for the shelter program.

The San Diego Housing Commission administers a second winter shelter contract for the City of San Diego, which serves homeless veterans. It will open the first week in December in the Midway District. The pre-fabricated structure will be located at the Navy's SPAWAR property, 2801 ½ Sports Arena Blvd, a partnership that has continued for several years. Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) operates the Midway facility, which will also have security.

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