



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION PARTNERSHIP BRINGS NEW LIFE TO RECOVERY PROGRAM AT FORMER NEIGHBORHOOD EYESORE**

**San Diego, CA**— After a 16-month renovation, the North Park Inn has been transformed from a neighborhood eyesore into a brand new facility that will provide residential housing for 17 graduates of Pathfinders of San Diego's "Shelter Plus Care" recovery program for homeless men.

Funded by the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and administered by the San Diego Housing Commission, the Shelter Plus Care program provides affordable housing and supportive services to chronically homeless individuals with disabilities.

"The Housing Commission values the opportunity to create partnerships that bring vital projects like these to life to help stabilize the lives of formerly homeless men," said Housing Commission President and CEO Richard C. Gentry.

The Inn was acquired by Pathfinders in 2009 with the help of matching \$2 million land acquisition and renovation loans provided by the San Diego Housing Commission and Redevelopment Agency. The total project cost was \$4,050,000, which included an additional \$50,000 predevelopment loan to Pathfinders by the Housing Commission.

"Thanks to Pathfinders, the San Diego Housing Commission and our other project partners, the renovated North Park Inn has strengthened the neighborhood through the addition of supportive housing and through the elimination of a blighted property," said Councilmember Todd Gloria.

The project is a joint partnership of HUD, the San Diego Housing Commission, San Diego Redevelopment Agency, and Pathfinders.

Janice Weinrick, Deputy Executive Director of the Redevelopment Agency commented, "The Agency participation in this adaptive reuse project accomplishes dual objectives of eliminating blight and helping to address the City's homeless problem. We are pleased to be a partner in this endeavor."

The site will also serve as the new headquarters for Pathfinders, a 60-year old nonprofit San Diego organization that operates supportive housing facilities for men recovering from substance abuse and those diagnosed with mental illness.

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“Creating affordable residential housing for our graduates is critically important to the continued success of Pathfinders,” remarked Stan Stanley, Pathfinders Executive Director. “Getting a new home for the organization is an added bonus.”

Located at 2625 University Avenue, the 27-year old building was in an unsafe state of condition. The new facility will contribute to the improvement of the surrounding neighborhood which has had problems with street crime and other illegal activity.

“Before the renovation, the number of calls responded to by the San Diego Police Department for problems at this address was extremely high,” remarked Officer David Surwilo, the police department’s community relations officer for North Park. “The situation has tremendously improved,” he added

Improvements to the property included reconfiguring the Inn’s 27 units into 14 studio and 4 two-bedroom apartments. A smaller building was converted into the organization’s new office and will also provide meeting space for the facility. Enhanced accessibility improvements for the physically disabled were also constructed.

Seventeen of the units will have restricted rents affordable to individuals earning between 30-60% (\$16,500-\$33,000) of the current Area Median Income (AMI). Rent restrictions recorded against the property by the Housing Commission will ensure that rents remain affordable for 55 years.

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