May 9, 2012

Message from the President & CEO

Partnerships are meaningful and we can achieve great things together. Here are two examples from the past month showing that promise at the South Dakota Housing Commission (SDHC) — one getting under way, another with amazing success to report after just one year.

Energy Roadmap Partnership

The first phase of a comprehensive look at all $1.25 billion SDHC affordable housing units for possible improvements in energy and water efficiency began last week in collaboration with San Diego Gas & Electric Company. The project was recently presented to the Natural Resources and Culture Committee of the South Dakota City Council.

The “energy roadmap” may identify additional ways to reduce energy costs for low-income families and enhance energy sustainability, a priority for SDHC. The study is being done at no cost to SDHC and will be completed by end of 2012.

Watch the video of the council presentation. Click here for PDF, here for video. Annual report 10: Energy Efficiency.

The assessments follow ongoing rehabilitation of 244 units at three major SDHC properties that illustrate the kinds of steps that may be taken to conserve energy and water. They include a rooftop solar photovoltaic system to complement the energy savings at the former St. Parker-Ker Apartments. Others, units are getting energy-efficient windows, better insulation, Star-rated appliances and low-flow plumbing fixtures.

Project 25 - Addressing Homelessness

For James Marsh, a former federal housing voucher provided by SDHC through a partnership with the state of South Dakota, his life in the city of Sioux Falls has meant a new start on life.

Marsh, 46, is among the former homeless adults who take part in the Project 25, which addresses chronic homelessness and the burden it places on public service resources. He is a former restaurant worker who had been homeless and battling homelessness among many others in 1999, now lives in his own apartment; he also works part-time services funded by the South Dakota Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Success Story

Under Project 25, James Marsh went from:

• $6,729 in rent in 2006 to $1,400 in 2011

• 24-day emergency room visits in 2010 to none in 2011

• 0 jail days in 2010 to 0 in 2011

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I invite your comments. Sincerely,

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

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