August 17, 2012

Message from the President & CEO

Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

Blood-Lead Testing: Protecting Children

One hundred and twenty-five children were tested for lead levels in their blood at a community event Saturday in a screening event sponsored by SDHC’s ‘Home Safe Home’ program. All of those, six tested positive for lead.

It was the largest of five blood-lead screening events conducted since October 27, 2011, as part of ‘Home Safe Home’, which receives its funding from HUD grants. To date, 314 children have been tested.

The testing, conducted in partnership with the Environmental Health Coalition and La Mesilla Community Health Clinic, uses blood samples from a pin prick to a finger and portable analyzers purchased by SDHC. It takes about three minutes to get results.

Parents of children who test positive are referred to local clinics for further evaluation; they also are offered home inspections to help identify and eliminate the source of any lead present.

Watch the video of the blood lead level testing on SDHC’s YouTube channel

Read the SDHC news release

Sponsor-Based Vouchers: Assisting Homeless San Diegans

By the end of the year, 130 homeless downtown San Diegans may find a place to call home as SDHC prepares to distribute rental assistance vouchers to non-profit organizations. The voucher program is SDHC’s largest overture of Sponsor-based housing vouchers and is funded by HUD.

SDHC currently is receiving proposals from non-profit organizations applying for the vouchers. They must also provide supportive services to the residents and evidence for organizations assisting the chronically homeless. Project 25, a similar effort by SDHC in partnership with the United Way of San Diego County, helped establish lives and reduced costs of public resources by millions.

Read the SDHC news release

Emergency Winter Shelter: Planning Ahead

SDHC will again operate a temporary emergency winter shelter for single homeless adults prior to this year’s completion of Connections Housing, a one-stop homeless service center in downtown San Diego.

The contingency plan was proposed by SDHC to bridge the period between December 1, when Connections Housing opens for business, and the opening of Connections Housing, expected at the end of December. City Council in July 23 unanimously approved the plan, which provides shelter for 120 adults. This approval was the continued operation of a 150-bed shelter for homeless military veterans.

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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Blood-Lead Testing: Protecting Children

We're About People

SDHC “Home Safe Home” Program

Children being tested for lead levels in downtown San Diego.

Sponsor-based vouchers will be provided to non-profit serving homeless San Diegans.

Emergency Winter Shelter: Planning Ahead

City Emergency Winter Shelter at open December 1, 2012.

Read the SDHC news release