



October 17, 2013

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry  
President & CEO

October is "Housing America Month."

Children whose families receive federal rental assistance from the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) helped us commemorate this important

recognition.

That's one of the pieces of news I will share with you, along with the visits to San Diego from California Governor Jerry Brown and Ophelia Basgal, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Western Regional Administrator.

"What Home Means to Me" Poster and Essay Contest

SDHC asked children living in our affordable housing apartments or whose families receive federal rental assistance from SDHC to share their thoughts about what having their own home means to them.

Participants described their homes with phrases like:

- "A place where my family is happy."
- "A peaceful place to rest."
- "The best place to be always!"

Three winners were selected. They represent the 13,352 children, younger than 18 years of age, whose families receive federal rental assistance from SDHC.

Participants and their families were honored by City of San Diego Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and City Councilmembers at last week's City Council meeting.

The artwork and essays were on display at the lobby in City Hall, where a news conference was held. I was joined by Gloria, City Councilmember Lorie Zapf and SDHC Commissioner Ben Moraga on October 8.



Interim Mayor Todd Gloria announced the winners of SDHC's "What Home Means to Me" poster & essay contest at City Hall on October 8, 2013.

The artwork and essays from all of the children who participated are featured on SDHC's website, [www.sdhc.org](http://www.sdhc.org).

The City Council also presented SDHC with a proclamation declaring October 2013 to be "Housing America Month" in the City of San Diego, and the contest participants and their families were also recognized.

[Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel](#)

[Read the SDHC news release](#)

SDHC at California Governor's Bill-Signing Ceremony

I attended California Governor Jerry Brown's bill-signing ceremony on October 10, 2013, at Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD), one of SDHC's key partners and the San Diego region's largest provider of housing and social services for homeless veterans.

One of the bills Governor Brown signed, AB 639, asks California voters in June to allow the state to use \$600 million of previously approved state bonds to create affordable apartments for low-income veterans.



Mural at the Veterans Village of San Diego

SDHC supported this legislation.

We have invested a total of \$8.7 million to help VVSD create 344 transitional beds since 2006.

SDHC is also partnering with VVSD to create a transitional housing program for 36 homeless veterans. SDHC will provide temporary rental assistance, and VVSD will provide specialized supportive services.

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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