



SAN DIEGO
HOUSING
COMMISSION

News Release

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**Media Contact: Maria Velasquez, Vice President
Community Relations & Communications
619-578-7560 mariav@sdhc.org**

“HEALTHY KIDS CHAMPION” AWARD BESTOWED TO THE SAN DIEGO HOUSING COMMISSION FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN, FAMILIES FROM HAZARDS OF LEAD-BASED PAINT

*SDHC’s “Home Safe Home” program has tested 646 children for lead poisoning and
remediated 1,403 residential units*

SAN DIEGO, CA—The San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) was honored with a Healthy Kids Champion award from the Environmental Health Coalition for its ongoing work to protect children and families from the dangers of lead-based paint in older homes.

“Making children and their homes safe from lead requires teamwork,” SDHC President and CEO Richard C. Gentry said. “SDHC is thankful for the great local partners we work with and the funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that makes this possible.”

Grants from HUD fund SDHC’s “Home Safe Home” program, which is overseen by SDHC’s Real Estate Division. SDHC partners with the Environmental Health Coalition and La Maestra Community Health Centers to conduct community events at which children are tested for lead poisoning.

Blood-lead levels can be detected easily with noninvasive portable Lead Care II blood analyzers. SDHC bought two analyzers in 2010 for a combined total cost of \$4,740. The blood analyzers require only a small pinprick to a child’s finger and provide results within three minutes. Families with children who test positive are referred for further medical evaluation and treatment.

“These resources have saved lives, prevented disease and provided parents with the opportunities to raise their children in a healthy home,” said San Diego City Council President Todd Gloria, who presented the Healthy Kids Champion Award to Gentry at EHC’s annual awards dinner.

SDHC’s “Home Safe Home” program and its partners have tested 646 children at eight community events since April 28, 2010. Thirteen children tested positive for high lead levels.

SDHC's "Home Safe Home" program also tests older homes for the presence of lead and provides funding to remove the danger from homes.

Since 2002, SDHC has received \$22.47 million in grants from HUD for the "Home Safe Home" program. Lead paint remediation work funded by these grants has made 1,403 residential units lead safe for children.

In addition to blood testing and lead-based paint remediation, SDHC uses the HUD funds to conduct "Healthy Homes" assessments for such problems as roaches, rodents, dust mites, mold and moisture, poor indoor air quality, and debris or unsafe conditions that can cause injuries.

SDHC was one of five organizations recognized at EHC's 2013 Awards Celebration, which was held in Mission Bay at the Marina Village.

For more information about the "Home Safe Home" program, visit www.sdhc.org.

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