



June 14, 2018

## Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry  
President & CEO

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) recent selection of a San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) partnership as an EnVision Center reflects our successful collaborations with community partners to achieve positive results for the families we serve.

SDHC also celebrates with our partners the grand opening of newly constructed affordable rental housing for families and the innovative program working with landlords to create housing opportunities for San Diegans experiencing homelessness.

I invite you to read more about these activities, as well as a few of our award-winning programs and partnership developments.

## SDHC Partnership Designated as EnVision Center

SDHC was proud to be selected with our partners as one of the 18 EnVision Centers across the country that HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson announced.

A collaboration between SDHC, the City of San Diego and San Diego Workforce Partnership, the EnVision Center in San Diego will offer services in four areas:

- Economic Empowerment – including connections to employers, job placement and counseling;
- Educational Advancement – including GED training courses, technology skills, and financial literacy;
- Health and Wellness – including healthcare and clinical services; and
- Character and Leadership Development – including volunteer and mentorship opportunities.

Programs and services will be provided at the SDHC Achievement Academy in Downtown San Diego and the South Metro Career Center, located within the Promise Zone in San Diego.

EnVision Centers promote financial self-reliance among federal rental assistance recipients and public housing residents.

[Read the News Release](#)

## 89 New Affordable Apartments for Families

The transformation of an underused retail center into affordable rental housing culminated with the grand opening of Mesa Verde Apartments, an SDHC partnership development.



**Mesa Verde Grand Opening**  
Located near open space and trails  
May 31, 2018

San Diego Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, City Councilmember Scott Sherman and SDHC Chairman of the Board Frank Urtasun were among the speakers at the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for Mesa Verde.

Developed by Chelsea Investment Corporation in partnership with SDHC, Mesa Verde provides 89 rental apartments that will remain affordable for 55 years for families with income up to 60 percent of San Diego's Area Median Income.

[Read the News Release](#)

[Watch the Video](#)

## Landlords Collaborate with SDHC to Address Homelessness

Landlords are essential partners to create permanent housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego.



**Landlord Recognition & Engagement Event**  
Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer (center) and landlords  
May 23, 2018

I was pleased to join Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer at an event hosted by the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce to recognize landlords who participated with SDHC and the City of San Diego in the Housing Our Heroes initiative and to encourage more landlords to join our Landlord Engagement and Assistance Program (LEAP).

[Housing Our Heroes](#) helped 1,000 Veterans who had been experiencing homelessness to secure rental housing. More than 430 landlords joined the initiative.

LEAP is an expansion of the landlord incentives program of Housing Our Heroes. Through LEAP, landlords receive incentives for renting to anyone experiencing homelessness Veterans and non-Veterans.

Housing Our Heroes and LEAP are part of [HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO](#), SDHC's homelessness action plan.

## SDHC Programs Recognized with National Awards of Merit

Three SDHC programs will be receiving Awards of Merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) at the organization's summer conference next month.

The [Housing Our Heroes](#) initiative, which helped 1,000 homeless Veterans secure permanent rental housing, also has been nominated for a NAHRO Award of Excellence.

SDHC's other Award of Merit honorees include the Power of One, a yearlong program that provides single-parent households with access to career and financial planning resources and workshops, and the SDHC Procurement Department's enhanced, streamlined process for review and implementation of Homeless Housing Innovations Department contracts.

NAHRO's summer conference will be held July 27-29 in San Francisco.

## SDHC Partners Receive Affordable Housing Awards

Three SDHC partnership developments won honors at the annual Ruby Awards, presented by the San Diego Housing Federation:

- Developed by Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation (Wakeland), [Atmosphere](#) apartments received the Ruby Award for Project of the Year in New Construction. This development provides the 202 affordable rental apartments, of which 51 are set aside for homeless San Diegans.
- [Talmadge Gateway](#), also developed by Wakeland, was recognized with the CSH Supportive Housing Award. It includes 59 affordable rental housing units with supportive services for homeless seniors.
- [North Park Seniors](#), developed by Community HousingWorks, earned two Ruby Awards: The Innovations Award and the SDG&E Efficiency and Sustainability Award. It provides 75 new affordable rental apartments for low-income and homeless seniors and is the first such development for seniors in the City of San Diego to provide programs for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents.

All three of these developments include permanent supportive housing units for homeless San Diegans that are an important part of HOUSING FIRST – SAN DIEGO, SDHC's homelessness action plan.

I invite your comments.

Sincerely,

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

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