



For Immediate Release

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12 Families Become Proud Homeowners

Housing Authority Helps Families Open a New Door of Opportunity

(San Bernardino, CA) Homeownership becomes a reality for 12 low-income families throughout San Bernardino County through the help of the Housing Authority's Homeownership Assistance Program and Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program.

Despite the economic recession and the housing crisis, these families have overcome the economic hurdles in their own lives and achieved homeownership. These families include a combination of low-income families throughout the County and families participating in one of the Housing Authorities housing assistance programs.

"I feel like a winner! I want to thank Housing Authority staff for encouraging me to be serious about achieving my dream when I first applied for the homeownership program," states Mr. Ellis Womack, who previously lived in affordable housing and closed escrow on his Rialto home in August.

Both the homeownership and FSS programs offered by the Housing Authority provide families with workshops, such as homeownership counseling, credit repair, and money management to begin their path towards homeownership. Participating families make a commitment to establish a long term career and become financially sound prior to becoming homeowners.

Sandra Padilla, who also just recently closed escrow on her new home states, "I'm extremely happy about being able to purchase my own home. The Housing Authority helped me get to where I am now." Ms. Padilla is a single mother of two who also previously lived in affordable housing. *Picture to the right is Sandra Padilla with her daughter and son outside their new home.*



"Our goal at the Housing Authority is to help families reach self-sufficiency and achieve an enriched quality of life, and through these homeownership opportunities families are achieving this goal. On a yearly basis, families use housing assistance programs as a stepping stone to move forward in life, and these families are the perfect example," states Susan Benner, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino.

The Housing Authority has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the leading California Housing Authority for helping the largest number of families become homeowners.

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The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is one of the largest public housing agencies in California, providing the critical resource of housing to a clientele of which the majority are seniors, persons with disabilities and children. From providing housing and home ownership, to job training and childcare, the Housing Authority helps tens of thousands of people to elevate their lives every day. For more information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, please visit www.hacsb.com