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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO TO RECOGNIZE STAND-OUT EFFORTS OF FAMILY SELF- SUFFICIENCY GRADUATES

Four Individuals Use Public Assistance as a Stepping Stone to Self-Reliance, Show that Hard Work Does Pay Off

(San Bernardino, CA.) The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino will recognize four graduates of its family self-sufficiency program with a ceremonial check presentation at its monthly board meeting at the Housing Authority's central office on **February 13th at 10:00 am**. Faced with tremendous challenges as head of households these graduates were able to transition from public assistance to self-reliance by securing full-time employment and in some cases receiving certificate degrees and diplomas. The four graduates will be the 174th to pass through the program since 2005 and will receive checks ranging between \$4,000 and \$14,000.

"These are shining examples of the will to succeed, no matter what the odds" said Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino Dan Nackerman. "Critics of public housing should take notice of individuals such as these who are willing and able to utilize our programs and services towards bettering their lives."

"This has been a long journey and it means so much to me and my family to be recognized in this way" said one FSS graduate who is currently working on her bachelor's degree. The graduate is also in the Housing Authority's homeownership program and hopes to be able to purchase a home for and her family in the very near future.

Established in 1998, the FSS program is part of the Housing Authority's mandate to not only provide the critical need of affordable housing, but to provide resources and direction for individuals seeking independence and self-reliance. The criterion established by the Housing Authority for successful completion of the FSS program requires that residents be:

- "Welfare" free for at least one-year prior to the expiration of their FSS contracts which are five years with the possibility of a two-year extension;
- Employed full-time by the expiration of their contract; and
- Have completed either their high school diploma or GED by the end of their contract.

For another FSS graduate, her ultimate goal is to own a childcare and youth center. "I have a passion for the well-being of people and seeing them do well because the FSS program showed me what is possible when you have support and encouragement. I'd like to be able to touch someone else's life in the same way," she adds.

The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino is one of the largest 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 child care, the Housing Authority helps tens of thousands of people to elevate their lives every day.

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For more information on the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, please visit www.hacsb.com

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