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Helping in More Ways Than One

Housing Authorities' First Computer Contest Helps Family's Access Technology

(San Bernardino, CA) The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino held its' first computer contest and awarded computers to five deserving families residing in public housing. With over 130 applications, the Housing Authority learned a lot about the personal goals and challenges of these public housing tenants. And because the Housing Authority understands that housing is only one of the many challenges families face, it's taking small steps to provide other resources to families whenever possible.

Although several of the Housing Authorities resident sites have computer labs, some of the tenant's work and/or school schedules conflict with the hours of operation. Therefore, for many families a computer at home means access to information at all times. Ms. Sanders, one of the computer winners, expressed how a computer will not only help her daughter work on school projects, but serve as a resource at home since Ms. Sanders is handicap: "My daughter has a lot of work each week that is very time consuming, and between school and having to take care of me since my stroke, she's lucky to get to bed before 1:00am each night." With a computer at home, Ms. Sander's daughter will be able to do school work at home while taking care of her mother.

Despite the resources offered by the Housing Authorities, other families live in remote locations and don't even have access to transportation. Finding a means to pick up the computer was a challenge for Mr. McClain, a disabled and single father with three teenage children from 29 Palms. After having the computer delivered to his home by Housing Authority staff, he expressed his gratitude for being one of the winners: "We are a deserving family, who has overcome great odds, but still maintains the ability to strive towards success. This computer will be, yet another tool, used to further ourselves in life." Mr. McClain's family dinner table is now being used as the computer table, a sacrifice the family is gladly willing to take.



The five computers are a benefit to these families attempting to reach their educational and/or professional goals; therefore, the Housing Authority hopes to give away more computers in the near future as they become available to more families in need.

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