



CDBG E-NEWSLETTER

ISSUE XXXIII FEBRUARY 2009 - MARCH 2009

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION AT THE CRC



Families, staff, and volunteers wait in line outside the CRC in the early morning.

On a chilly December morning many people would be staying indoors, but at the Community Development Commission's (CDC) Community Resource Center (CRC) in South Whittier, the doors opened promptly at 9:00 a.m. on December 18, 2008, for 200 low-income families. In its 10th year, the CRC held their *Holiday Toy and Food Distribution Event*, which has become an annual source of assistance for hundreds of families living in the unincorporated areas of South Whittier, in Los Angeles County. Sponsored by the First and Fourth Supervisorial Districts, donations ranged from toys and stuffed animals, to food boxes that included a holiday turkey with all the trimmings.



Donation boxes filled with food items.

Thanks to the donations of dozens of organizations and volunteers from agencies and County departments such as the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, CDC's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Division, California Highway Patrol-Santa Fe Springs Division, Boy and Girl Scouts of America, CRC onsite agencies, and other community-based organizations, the 2008 holiday season was a bit brighter for those experiencing tough economic times.



Above, Fourth District Supervisor, Don Knabe poses for a picture with Santa Claus.

The outstanding job done by the CRC's staff cannot go without recognition. Preparation for the event begins in September with the pre-registration of interested families. The night before the event, CRC Director, Jo Ann Eros-Delgado and her staff worked late to make sure that every detail was addressed before the arrival of the families in the morning. This year, joining the families and dozens of volunteers was Don Knabe, Fourth District Supervisor, Andrea Avila, Fourth District Deputy, Angie Castro, First District Senior Field Deputy, and *the big guy himself, Santa Claus!*

IMPORTANT DATES

February

02/02/2009

- Deadline: Cities to submit Planning Summaries, Proposed Exhibit As, and Environmental Service Requests

02/16/2009

- Presidents Day
CDC Offices Closed

02/18/2009

- City Quarterly Meeting
@ CDC Commission Room, 10:00 a.m.

March

03/20/2009

- Deadline: Semi-Annual Labor Standards Enforcement Reports due for Cities, Co. Depts., and selected CBOs & OPAs

03/31/2009

- Deadline: Single Audit Reports due for Cities and CBOs

Special Thanks To:

Elizabeth Savage,
Project Development Administrator,
from the City of West Hollywood for her
contribution to the West Hollywood
affordable housing story.



CDC STAFF GEARING UP FOR COUNTY GREEN BUILDING ORDINANCE



In an effort to stem the effects of rising energy costs for County residents and reduce the amount of greenhouse gases being released into the environment, the Board of Supervisors approved the County Green Building Program on October 7, 2008. The Program establishes requirements for all new construction projects in the unincorporated areas of the County regarding Green Building, Low-Tolerant Landscaping, and Low-Impact Development. The CDBG

Division has been preparing for these new requirements, which took effect on January 1, 2009, by staying up-to-date and involved with the process.

To assist our participating agencies and other CDC divisions with understanding and complying with the new requirements, CDBG's Brian Talbot, Environmental Specialist, successfully completed the Certified Green Building Professional Program offered by the *Build It Green* organization. We are also

very excited to announce that Mr. Talbot was recently selected as the CDC's representative to the County's new Green Building Program Implementation Task Force, charged with educating the public, updating the ordinances, and monitoring projects in the program.

For information regarding Green Building options, the County Green Building Ordinances, GreenPoint Rated, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design programs, please contact Mr. Talbot at (323) 838-5042 or Brian.Talbot@lacdc.org.

ST. JOSEPH CENTER OPENS ITS NEW FAMILY SERVICE

The CDC would like to congratulate the St. Joseph Center for its new *Family Services and Administration* facility, which opened its doors on September 18, 2008, at 204 Hampton Drive in Venice. The 30,000 square foot facility allows for the centralization of five (5) programs under one (1) roof, including the Family Center and Food Pantry, Early Learning

Center, Senior Services, Affordable Housing, and the Culinary Training Program. By consolidating its services in one (1) location, St. Joseph will be able to better focus its resources on improving client activities such as after-school programs for children and computer training for adults.

St. Joseph has been providing

services to low-income and homeless individuals and families for more than 20 years, and has partnered with the CDC since 2001.

Because of its unique location, the new facility had to adhere to strict Environmental Ordinances from the City of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica, and the California Coastal Commission.



WEST HOLLYWOOD SHOWS THAT AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAN GO "GREEN"



Watercolor rendition of Sierra Bonita project; Architect Patrick Tighe.

Affordable housing doesn't get any more ambitious than the City of West Hollywood's new Sierra Bonita mixed-use project, currently under construction on Santa Monica Boulevard. The 42 unit building will be completed in late 2009. Financing combines \$1.1 million in CDBG funds with \$14 million in public and private funds. Apartments will rent to very low-

income disabled households and will include onsite supportive services. The non-profit developer, West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation, will occupy offices in the first floor commercial space.

Following standards set by the award winning La Brea Gateway shopping center, the Sierra Bonita project is a bellwether for the City's eastside redevelopment area. *Rome Prize* winning architect Patrick Tighe designed the project with a "green" approach - the building uses airways wrapping around a

central courtyard to maximize natural light and ventilation. Photovoltaic solar panels serve dual uses by producing energy and acting as architectural elements. Sierra Bonita is also a prototype for the City's Green Building Program, which took effect October 1, 2007. The new city ordinance uses a point-based system in categories such as location, exposure, natural heating and cooling, recycled materials, indoor air quality, and other factors.