

SACRAMENTO MUTUAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION

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South Sacramento Neighborhood Dedicates First
Multifamily Housing Community in 20 years

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Sacramento—With a ceremony that opened with a dance performance by area teens and an invocation by a pastor from The African Church, and closed with a Buddhist good luck prayer, the first multifamily housing community built in the Lemon Hill neighborhood of South Sacramento in the last 20 years was dedicated this morning. Before a crowd of more than 200 new residents, neighbors, and well-wishers Sacramento Mutual Housing Association's Executive Director Rachel Iskow shared, "This is very exciting day for everyone who has been working for change in this diverse, vibrant neighborhood."

The dedication ceremony was followed by an open house that featured tours of the property and a community fair where new residents and neighbors visited booths set up by area service providers including City Parks and Recreation, Sacramento Police and Fire Departments, the Boys and Girls Club, and SMUD. Sacramento Mutual Housing Association volunteers operated the face painting booth and handed out free balloons to the dozens of children in attendance.

Located at 6000 Lemon Hill Avenue, Mutual Housing at Lemon Hill includes 74 apartments and townhomes that will be home to more than 400 people. Remarkable for its park-like central quad and shared amenities, the property also includes a community center with a common kitchen, a playground, and a 25-station computer learning center. The most impressive feature, however, is the full-time Community Organizer who will work out of an office in the community center. "By identifying, cultivating and supporting a legion of neighborhood residents committed to building a stronger neighborhood," Iskow continued, "the Community Organizer will develop and support the human infrastructure for progressive change."

Although this grand opening is a historic achievement in urban planning and resident involvement, it is not just a celebration of a physical structure designed around the truest sense of community. Rather, June 11 signals a changing wind in the futures of the residents of Lemon Hill and with that wind, a directional shift for this Sacramento

neighborhood where median per capita income is less than 30% of the county average. What began as a humble, though laborious, effort to create new affordable housing has emerged as a multi-faceted, collaborative movement to improve an entire neighborhood.

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Sacramento Mutual Housing Association

Sacramento Mutual Housing Association is a non-profit organization with a mission to develop and operate permanently affordable housing that builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development. Currently, SMHA operates nine mutual housing communities that are home to more than 2,000 Sacramentans.

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The opening of Mutual Housing at Lemon Hill is a featured event of NeighborWorks® Week, a national week of neighborhood change and awareness coordinated by NeighborWorks® America – a national network of more than 235 community development organizations providing financial support, technical assistance and training for communities in more than 2,700 urban, suburban and rural communities across America.

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