

# Tree Planting as a way to Build Community at Sacramento Mutual Housing Association



**Foothill Tree Planting: Ivan Sachuk and his team during the tree planting event at Foothill Plaza on 12/1/2010. Photo by Iryna Kline.**

Sacramento Mutual Housing Association (SMHA) was incorporated in 1988 as a partnership of neighborhood residents, business representatives, housing advocates, and local government dedicated to improving housing opportunities for lower income families. Located in sunny California, they get to plant trees in December!

Foothill Plaza is one of their 15 different communities highlighted on their website [www.mutualhousing.com/communities/foothill\\_plaza.htm](http://www.mutualhousing.com/communities/foothill_plaza.htm).

In partnership with the Sacramento Tree Foundation (a local nonprofit) and with the help of resident and non-resident volunteers, 14 trees were planted to add more shade during hot summer months. This project will beautify the property and lower the amount of residents' electricity bills in summer.

One of Foothill Plaza's senior residents, 82-year-old Ivan Sachuk, helped during the tree planting event. He was very helpful and energetic during this project.

Planting one tree made his day. He said he felt that by planting a tree, he was making a big change in his neighborhood. Ivan and 2 other residents worked on digging a hole for a new tree where an old tree once grew.

The old tree had fallen during a windy storm last summer. As a result, there were a lot of roots in the ground that the three residents had to fight. Diligently, working as a team, they were able to plant the new tree after working for almost two hours. At the end of the project, they were happy and proud.

Other outcomes from their Community Building and Organizing activities in the last quarter include financial literacy workshops for teens, and healthy cooking classes with a professional chef.



**Sacramento | Yolo  
Mutual Housing  
Association**

*Transforming Lives...Building Community*

Sacramento Mutual Housing Association develops housing that is affordable to a diversity of households. Our housing builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development.

For more information, call (916) 453-8400 or visit our website at [mutualhousing.com](http://mutualhousing.com).