



Mutual Housing families receive holiday dinners from Kings

On Saturday afternoon, Sacramento Kings joined with Nokia Siemens Networks and Verizon Wireless to give away 200 holiday dinners for local families at Sleep Train Arena.

Twenty-five Mutual Housing California families were among the recipients of the traditional turkey dinners that serve six to eight people.

Mutual Housing community organizers worked with property management staff to identify the families who would need dinners the most this holiday season. Families had to be on available the day of the event and have transportation.

Latrise James, a resident at River Garden Estates Mutual Housing Community, and her family were grateful recipients. "It was a blessing having help in my time of need," said James.

"This Christmas will be better because of it."

James and her family recently a Kings games, thanks to the free tickets the team donated to the nonprofit. "The family bonding was great during the Kings game," said James.

James earned her tickets by attending a Mutual Housing voter-education workshop prior to the November elections.

"Mutual Housing works with residents to build a strong sense of community and mutual support," said Rachel Iskow, Mutual housing California CEO. "That the Kings are reaching out into the community to ensure families have food for a holiday celebration is an example of this spirit."

A long-time Mutual Housing California supporter, Sacramento developer Sotiris Kolokotronis was instrumental in seeing that Mutual Housing families were included in the Maloof Sports & Entertainment "Home for the Holidays" campaign. The annual program hosts a series of charitable events to brighten the lives of children and families in the region during the team's "Season of Giving."

"Rachel, her staff and board do an extraordinary job," said Kolokotronis. "For me, I thought of what they're doing and how valuable it is when I put their name at the top of my list."

Families from other nonprofits also included Big Brothers Big Sisters, Centers for Fathers & Families, United Christian Centers, La Familia

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.

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Counseling Center, Cottage Housing, Roberts Family Development Center and the Phoenix Park Community Empowerment Center.

Sacramento Kings players Tyreke Evens, Aaron Brooks, Chuck Hayes, John Salmons and Travis Outlaw, Slamson, Kings Dancers and volunteers from Nokia Siemens Networks and Verizon Wireless distributed boxes of food to families chosen from various local non-profit organizations.

This is the 11th year that the Kings and their players have passed out dinners to families.

Season of Giving festivities continued Tuesday as DeMarcus Cousins teamed with Wells Fargo and Walmart to treat 50 local children to a holiday shopping spree. This past Saturday, Jimmer Fredette, Thomas Robinson, Isaiah Thomas and Jason Thompson visited patients at Shriners Hospitals for Children in Sacramento. Players and volunteers delivered gifts and spent time with kids and their families.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops and operates well-designed rental housing for modest-income households. The communities have 2,750 residents, half of whom are children.

Through its focus on leadership, the Sacramento-based nonprofit provides training and mentoring as well as educational programs, community-building activities and services for residents and neighbors.

For more information, visit <http://www.mutualhousing.com>.