

Daily Business Report

June 25, 2008

HOUSING

Auburn Park Apartments in City Heights and the **Seniors on Broadway** project in Chula Vista have been awarded Projects of the Year awards by the **San Diego Housing Federation** in its 13th annual affordable housing awards program. Auburn Park won in the over 50 units category, Seniors on Broadway in the fewer than 50 units category. Awards also were presented to individual advocates and others who made contributions to affordable housing and community development during the past year.

Evan E. Becker, managing principal of **Red Capital Group** in San Diego received the federation's first Lifetime Achievement Award. Becker came to California in 1988 to become executive director of **the San Diego Housing Commission**. During his tenure there, he led the development of scattered site public housing, preservation of "at-risk" affordable housing, development of the city's housing trust fund and efforts to build the affordable housing capability of other organizations. "You can see the result of Evan's dedication to those in greatest need everywhere he's been ... the Housing Trust Fund in the city of San Diego, inclusionary housing in Carlsbad," said **Arnulfo Manriquez**, president of the federation board. "There are thousands of affordable units that are the result of his committed leadership."

The Auburn Park Apartments, a development of the **Affirmed Housing Group**, has 69 apartments rented to very low and low-income residents. The design, by **Studio E Architects**, incorporates local architectural styles found along University Avenue. Seniors on Broadway, a 42-home apartment community, is home to low-income seniors. The development occurred on land leased from the **Chula Vista Elementary School District**. Residents partner with students at the adjacent charter school for a "Generations Together" program providing an intergenerational exchange.

A "Very Special Award" was presented to **SOLARA** in Poway, a development of **Community HousingWorks**, for its use of solar power to provide 100 percent of the energy needs for the community. Community Housing Works was recognized for being a trendsetter and for the exceptional effort it took to be the first apartment community in the nation to provide full solar power..

Awards also were given made to **Del Sol Apartments**, San Diego, for **Wakeland Housing and Development's** rehabilitation of the 93-unit apartment community for low-income families. Located in the Nestor community, the project had been in serious disrepair and crime-ridden.

Serenity Village in Escondido received the award for Housing Project of the Year – Special Needs for its cluster of single-family homes for low-income adult women and their children. The transitional housing was developed by

North County Serenity House to support "graduates" of its drug and alcohol abuse recovery program.

Three resident services coordinators were honored for their exceptional service and caring for residents. They are **Louise Fowler**, Alabama Manor, Community Housing Works; **Willy Gloria**, **San Martin de Porres**, the **MAAC Project**; and **Johana Rodriquez**, five Wakeland Housing and Development communities in South County.

Rodriquez Associates Architects and Planners was named the year's Outstanding Development Partner for its award-winning affordable housing designs that create a sense of community.

Two awards were presented to those in the public sector. The Outstanding Local Government Award went to the **city of Coronado** for its support in developing the first two new affordable housing communities in the city. The John Craven Memorial Award was given to Dr. **Piedad Garcia**, assistant deputy director of the **San Diego County Mental Health Department**, for her advocacy in support of new county housing programs for the mentally ill.

A SDG&E Energy Efficiency Award was given to the MAAC Project's Healthy Homes and Services program. It provided weatherization services to 1,840 households in 2007. The result was reduced heating and cooling costs by improving the energy efficiency of homes.

The Outstanding Local Advocate Award went to **the San Diego County Mental Health Housing Council** for its support of creating "housing first" for the homeless mentally ill. The group participated in the development of the county's housing plan for the mentally ill and in advocating for reliable funding to house those receiving services in the county's Full Service Partnerships.

The **U.S. Department of Housing Development's Myrna B. Pascual** and the **Housing Opportunities Collaborative** were recognized for establishing HOME Clinics and workshops for distressed homeowners facing foreclosure. More than 1,400 households have been counseled through more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service from attorneys, Realtors, mortgage brokers and others recruited by Pascual and coordinated by her and other Collaborative members.