

**Tuesday, September 24, 2002:**

**WESTWOOD TRANSITIONAL HOUSING VILLAGE RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR INNOVATION**

40-unit multi-family facility - with child care center - combines temporary housing with support services to assist families in achieving self-sufficiency

Recognition from NACCED is third national award village has received this year

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - September 20, 2002. The Los Angeles County Community Development Commission (CDC) today received a National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED) "2002 Award of Excellence" for its role in creating the Westwood Transitional Village, a 40-unit multi-family facility - which includes a child care center -- that provides temporary housing and support services for primarily single women with children who were formerly homeless or emancipated from the County's foster care program.

The NACCED Annual Awards of Excellence recognizes a select few innovative, effective, and exemplary activities. This year, only five activities in the entire nation received awards. The County CDC development was recognized as an innovative activity funded in part by the federal Home Investment Partnerships Program (commonly referred to as the HOME Program), which assists in the acquisition, rehabilitation, and development of rental and for-sale housing. The County CDC ([www.lacdc.org](http://www.lacdc.org)) - which serves as the region's affordable housing and community and economic development agency -- received its award today during a luncheon ceremony at the NACCED's 27th Annual Community and Economic Development Conference in New York.

The NACCED is a nonprofit national organization composed of county government agencies that administer community development, economic development, and affordable housing programs. The Washington, DC-based NACCED ([www.naccded.org](http://www.naccded.org)) was created as an affiliate of the National Association of Counties (NACo) in 1978 to assist in developing the technical capacity of county agencies in administering these programs.

The Westwood Transitional Village - located at 1401 Sepulveda Boulevard, just south of Wilshire Boulevard -- was created through a partnership that included the County CDC and the Salvation Army, the worldwide social welfare organization. The project provides a coordinated approach to addressing the challenges faced by homeless families as they attempt to regain their financial and emotional footing and rebuild their lives.

The program provides up to two years of subsidized rental housing and supportive services to qualifying families, including single mothers with drug or domestic violence issues currently living in Salvation Army-run shelters in various Los Angeles County locations, single mothers who have recently emancipated from the County's foster care system, and families headed by a military veteran. The County CDC provided over \$1.5 million of the approximately \$8 million total development cost.

The Salvation Army owns and operates the village and provides residents with training, counseling, and other services to prepare them to become economically and personally self-sufficient, free of substance abuse, and empowered with additional life skills to ensure their family's long-term stability. The services include medical care at an on-site clinic operated by the UCLA Medical School, educational and employment assistance, computer learning in a village lab, child care, and help in securing permanent housing.

The village has established a successful track record. Clients have transitioned out into permanent housing, obtained and retained employment, and demonstrated improved family dynamics through the program. For example, 80 percent of the families exiting the program had adults that obtained lasting employment.

Carlos Jackson, executive director of the County CDC, said, "The Westwood Transitional Village is an exemplary development. I thank again the Salvation Army and the Community Development Commission staff for their teamwork and innovation. We are pleased that the village is starting to receive recognition from a variety of people nationwide." The NACCED honor is the third national award the village has received. Earlier this year, the village received the NACo Achievement Award and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Agency Award of Merit.

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