



WEST HOLLYWOOD
COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

COMMUNIQUÉ

WINTER 2019



Building Homes

A Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that 2019 is coming to a close and WHCHC's 34th year is about to start. Since our inception, WHCHC has focused on solving problems. That means rolling up our sleeves, getting our hands dirty, and building homes and providing services that move community members from insecurity to stability. Today we house over 800 people in 480 units in 16 properties in three cities. Wow!

Meanwhile, the struggle continues for many. Today Los Angeles is doing more than it has ever done before to house the vulnerable, and yet—yet—every day, more people are falling into homelessness than are being housed. It is clear how critically important WHCHC's role as a non-profit affordable housing developer is in the fight. **Homes prevent homelessness.**

WHCHC began by creating housing for people who could live independently. Over the years we realized that some people need a little help to live on their own. Our most vulnerable residents need more than just a roof over their heads. Many struggle with food insecurity. Many struggle with health and mental health challenges. Many are lonely and isolated. We looked at the problem and thought, how can we help? Our Resident Services Department evolved organically. We started with one person who could advocate on behalf of our residents living with HIV/AIDS. Today ten full-time professionals meet with all our residents and assess their needs, create individualized service plans, and link them to critical resources such as additional benefits, food, mental and physical health care, and transportation.

As we head into the new year, and prepare to welcome more than 120 new residents in two all-new apartment communities, WHCHC will continue to be a part of the solution to housing affordability, housing insecurity, and homelessness.

On the following pages you'll learn about our successful food and nutrition programs, meet one of our residents, get updates on our projects in development, and learn how you can help our residents stay housed and thrive.

On behalf of us all at WHCHC, I thank you for your continued support and wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and a fruitful new year.

Thank you & regards,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jesse". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jesse Slansky
President & CEO

Overwhelming Demand for Senior Housing



More than **1,000** low-income seniors submitted applications for just 93 units.

As construction wraps up on **Westmore Linden**, we were stunned by the response to our outreach efforts. More than 1,000 low-income seniors submitted applications for just 93 units. With demand oversubscribed more than 10 to 1, WHCHC filled units through a lottery process. For vulnerable community members, the chance to move into Westmore Linden, a brand new, beautiful, safe and permanent affordable home, is truly winning the lottery. Westmore Linden will welcome its new residents home in early January 2020.

Westmore Linden offers a host of on-site amenities including a community room with kitchen, a fitness center, a computer room, a laundry room, and four social services offices. Outdoor features include a courtyard with a barbecue, tables and seating. Westmore Linden is located in the Koreatown/Pico Union neighborhood of Los Angeles.



With generous support from the City of West Hollywood's anti-poverty initiative, Seeds of Hope brings beautiful and bountiful fresh produce to eight of our apartment communities twice a month. Working together, WHCHC and Seeds of Hope have also created edible gardens at these properties. Residents participate in the care and harvesting, learn from cooking demonstrations, and receive horticultural therapy. Seeds of Hope truly lives up to their name. We have seen residents who typically isolate now emerge from the shadows and participate in this life-altering program.



Seeds of Hope

Seeds of Hope is a program of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles that promotes wellness among individuals and communities by coordinating food production and distribution for the benefit of the hungry and undernourished, while providing health and nutrition education for those suffering from food-related ailments.





Resident Spotlight

Recently, Ken and his husband Juan celebrated their 13th anniversary together and one year anniversary at **Blue Hibiscus**. They previously lived on the same site in an older bungalow court that WHCHC redeveloped in 2016 to double the number of affordable homes.

"Juan and I are so grateful to not be priced out of our neighborhood and our community," Ken said.

More than just returning to the neighborhood they call home, Blue Hibiscus provides many amenities that are vital to their activities of daily living. Blue Hibiscus incorporates universal design principles so residents can truly age in place. Every apartment is designed to be functional and practical for people both with and without mobility impairments. The goal is no resident should be displaced due to acquired disability.

"Juan is more reliant on a wheelchair and we have been so relieved that WHCHC considered this, not just for us, but in all of the units."

Blue Hibiscus includes a blend of residents from seniors to transition-age-youth.

"We really enjoy the community that has been made here," said Ken. "We like participating in the gardening program. It gives us another opportunity to get to know our neighbors."



WHCHC integrates resident services with affordable housing because low-income and other high risk individuals, such as the formerly homeless, face special challenges to maintain their housing.

**You
Can Help!**

We are grateful to have individual donors, corporate sponsors, and philanthropic foundations who support the mission of WHCHC.

Your investment of \$1,200 provides one resident with supportive services for one year.

Please visit www.whchc.org and donate today!

Elden Elms

Going up fast, **Elden Elms** is on schedule to open in December 2020. Adjacent to Westmore Linden (see page 3), Elden Elms will be 93 units for low-income families, with 15 units reserved for formerly homeless families.



Watch What's Happening Now



Berendo Sage

Scheduled to break ground in the summer of 2020, **Berendo Sage** will be 42 units, with half reserved for formerly homeless households. Berendo Sage is located on a vacant City-owned lot in the Koreatown/Pico-Union neighborhood of Los Angeles.



Rampart Mint

Featured on the cover, **Rampart Mint** is 23 units of permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless and chronically homeless individuals with special needs. Co-developed with Affordable Living for the Aging, Rampart Mint is located in the Westlake/Rampart Village neighborhood of Los Angeles and is ramping up for its opening in the summer of 2020.

Mariposa Lily

Also located in the Koreatown/Pico-Union area on a vacant City-owned lot, **Mariposa Lily** will be 41 units, with half reserved for formerly homeless households. Mariposa Lily is scheduled to break ground in the fall of 2020.





**West Hollywood
Community Housing Corporation**

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OUR MISSION

Building homes and providing services that move
community members from insecurity to stability.

WHCHC does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, disability, familial
status, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other arbitrary basis.



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