



WEST HOLLYWOOD  
COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

# COMMUNIQUE

SUMMER 2020



Safer at  
**Home**

# A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I hope you and those dear to you are healthy and safe.

We are living through unprecedented times. As one of our valued supporters, we would like to take this opportunity to update you on the impact that the novel coronavirus Covid-19 has had on our operations and on the vulnerable populations we serve.

As we navigate these uncharted waters, as always, the health and well-being of our residents remains our top priority. In the best of times, providing affordable housing is an exercise in perseverance and flexibility. Today, in the wake of a global health crisis, we rise to the challenge. We have adapted quickly to the current environment and continue building homes and providing services that move community members from insecurity to stability.

In early March, WHCHC staff transitioned to working remotely. Our team of Resident Services Coordinators ensures our population of over 925 low-income residents remain supported through regular contact by phone, video, text and email. They assess resident wellness, provide referrals, assist with benefits paperwork, and mostly, continue a friendly and reassuring social connection. RSCs are working with our food and nutrition partners to make sure everyone has access to food, essential medication, and other necessary supplies. They also began sending out weekly newsletters that contain a mix of important information and fun activities to do at home. Fortunately, even some of our unlikeliest residents are quite tech savvy thanks to social media and technology workshops we've held in the past. Please see some highlights on the next page.

While the situation remains fluid, currently, affordable housing has been classified as an essential activity in the various Safer at Home ordinances. Construction and predevelopment activities continue for all six of our affordable housing projects in development. For updates, please see page 7.

Through good times and bad, WHCHC has had a successful 30-year history of being adaptable and resilient. On behalf of our residents, we are immensely grateful for your support. Together, we will get through this.

Thank you & kind regards,



**Jesse Slansky**  
President & CEO





# Social Distancing Doesn't Mean Social Isolation

Demonstrating perseverance and flexibility, WHCHC's dedicated Resident Services Coordinators have risen to the challenge of providing support from a distance. Flexing their creative muscles, RSCs stay in regular communication with our residents through a variety of media, and their old-school weekly newsletters have become a big hit. RSCs collaborate with our wonderful community partners to have food and other necessities safely delivered to ensure nobody goes hungry or without essentials.



RSC Judy video chats with one of our youngest residents!

**Courtyard at La Brea** residents loved seeing West Hollywood Mayor Lindsey Horvath safely delivering healthy meals along with our friends at Project Angel Food.



RSCs also provide peace of mind to the families of some of our most vulnerable residents. Recently, the daughter of a **Movietown Square** senior emailed us to compliment RSC Bella:

*"She is so kind and attentive to the residents... My mother lives there, but I live far away. It is great to know that my mom is taken care of. You have wonderful staff!"*

Hats off to you, Bella!





# Safer at Home at Westmore Linden



The doors have officially opened at **Westmore Linden** and now more than 125 seniors have a place to call home. Covid-19 may have temporarily put our plans for a grand opening celebration on hold, but it hasn't tempered the enthusiasm. The sense of gratitude is palpable. For someone living in overcrowded conditions, it's difficult to shelter in place; for someone living on the streets, impossible. Covid-19 puts into focus how vitally important it is to have safe, high-quality, affordable housing.

Our newest completed project, located in the Koreatown/Pico-Union neighborhood of Los Angeles, includes 93 beautiful studio and one-bedroom units for seniors, with 15 units of permanent supportive housing for formerly homeless seniors. Each apartment includes energy-efficient appliances, an eat-in kitchen and private balcony. Westmore Linden amenities include a spacious community room with a kitchen, a peaceful outdoor courtyard with a barbecue, fitness center, computer room, and multiple social services offices to provide on-site supportive services to residents, free of charge.





# The Key to Happiness

With each key comes a story, and Esther's story comes with a smile. Her enthusiasm shined through as she expressed her favorite part of her new home, Westmore Linden: "Everything!" she said. "I like the interior, I like the new floors, I like the beautiful balcony. Everything!"

Esther went from housing insecurity to housing stability at Westmore Linden. She was relieved to say goodbye to a previous apartment building where she faced a filthy living environment, short notice rent increases, and multiple car break-ins. Esther, a retired senior, knew she needed a place that suited her better.

And that's when she greeted her new apartment community, Westmore Linden, with her one-of-a-kind smile. "I love you guys!", Esther cheered, as she remembered this life-changing moment. Key in hand, smile on her face, Esther was ready for her next chapter in a comfortable and beautiful living space.

Jeanie, Esther's daughter, shared the positive impact of Esther's move to Westmore Linden. "I have lived with my mother for 10+ years," Jeanie began. "Comparing the old previous apartment to Westmore Linden, I can say that my mother is overly happy. Pretty much I don't think there are words to how I can compare [Westmore Linden] and the old place."

The rest is history. With a brand new key in her hand, Esther felt right at home very quickly. "Everybody is kind. Very kind.

**Thank you very much!"**

Welcome home, Esther!



## Westmore Linden: At a Glance

### Units

93 including manager's unit

### Population

Seniors & Homeless Seniors

### Architect

Urban Architecture Lab

### Contractor

United Building Company

### Lenders & Funders

Affordable Housing Program

California Community Reinvestment Corporation

California Tax Credit Allocation Committee

Corporation for Supportive Housing

Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles

Housing & Community Investment Department Los Angeles

New Generation Fund

LA County Department of Health Services

LA County Department of Mental Health

Los Angeles County Special Needs Housing Program

Wells Fargo

# Homeless to Housed

Like so many, after a lifetime of working various and multiple jobs including, nurse's assistant, barber, auto salesperson, telephone operator, and for Amtrak, Darnell fell into homelessness in 2018.

Unwilling to settle for the hand he'd been dealt, Darnell kept at it, constantly trying all channels to be one of the lucky ones to secure housing. Darnell expressed his joy about his transition out of homelessness: **"It's been a miracle; I feel like myself again."**





## Resident Spotlight

Jovita is a wise and hard-working woman determined to make a better path for her family. Jovita lives with her son, Ivan, her daughters, Elia & Hailey, and granddaughter, Harmony at **Vermont Manzanita**.

Nearly five years ago the family of five was sleeping on two mattresses on the floor of a one-bedroom apartment. On the verge of being homeless, they got a fateful call that changed the course of their lives. Housing—not just any housing, but a safe, high-quality, affordable three-bedroom unit—was available at a brand new building. Now, Jovita has gone from a stay-at-home mom to having a full-time job, and she was recently promoted to assistant manager.

Jovita credits her advancement at work to her English speaking skills: she consistently attends ESL classes in the community, and WHCHC's English Conversation Group. She also reads daily with her daughter, Hailey.

Jovita's oldest, Ivan, began his freshman year at Cal State LA in 2017. Ivan is currently thriving in his third year at the university and will graduate with a BS in Business Administration in next June. Ivan plans on immediately continuing his education to receive a Masters in Sports Medicine.



## Homes Prevent Homelessness

Today, WHCHC houses 925 residents in 574 units in 17 properties in 3 cities. Your generosity supports the residents service programs that help our residents live healthy and vibrant lives.

### Thanks to Our 2019-2020 Grantors

The Ahmanson Foundation • Annenberg Foundation • Bank of America • Capital One  
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**Become a part of the WHCHC story.**

Visit [www.WHCHC.org](http://www.WHCHC.org) and click **DONATE NOW**



# Watch What's Happening Now



## Elden Elms

On track to welcome residents in early 2021, **Elden Elms** will consist of 93 low-income units for families. This upcoming WHCHC apartment community will include 30 three-bedroom units, 15 two-bedroom units, and 48 one-bedroom units, 15 of which will be reserved for the formerly homeless. Stay tuned for lease-up lottery information.



## Miramar Gold

In the Westlake North neighborhood of Los Angeles, **Miramar Gold** will include 94 units, 47 apartments of which reserved for formerly homeless individuals and families, and 47 units for low-income households and families making up to 50% of the area median income.



## Rampart Mint

Comprises 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 early this fall.



## Berendo Sage

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



## Mariposa Lily

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