



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Our work is rewarding on many levels as we continue our mission to bring meaningful housing opportunities to families, seniors, and those with special needs at the lower end of the economic spectrum. At the same time, we've also expanded our services to include health, education, and other human services.

Another part of our work that is almost as gratifying as building affordable housing—is that of creating business and job opportunities through our work with individuals and their families, as well as contributing to local economies with our many business partners.

I remember, for example, years ago when Al Ruiz was hired by PSHH as resident maintenance manager at Los Adobes de Maria. Soon we all began to ask Al to translate and organize tours of various properties. He also helped coordinate (and still does) community events and holiday parties with residents. Today, Al is the facilities manager for all properties in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. I love that PSHH can uncover talented people through the work that we do and give them an opportunity to show their potential and leadership. Some of our new hires in Property Management like Maria Chavez and

Isabel Zarate grew up in homes their families built in Guadalupe and Nipomo. Our gardening and maintenance crews were tenants or self-help builders. We've had many examples of self-help families, and their children, who have gone to work for either PSHH or The Duncan Group—including almost all of our Resident Managers.

Promoting and hiring from within the PSHH family not only reaps rewards for our participants but also for PSHH—who better than those who understand the importance and sensitivities of what we are trying to do—and who would be more motivated to see others accomplish what they already have achieved...

For over 30 years PSHH has contributed to a healthier economy by hiring local subcontractors, construction workers, landscapers, interior designers, surveyors, engineering firms, and the list goes on. I'm proud that we are able to support local business in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties by putting hundreds of millions of dollars into the Central Coast economy.

These residual benefits to the community make our work all the more significant and gratifying.

Jeanette Duncan, Executive Director

Statewide Support of the Opening of Los Adobes de Maria II

Los Adobes de Maria II in Santa Maria is a newly constructed, 52-unit apartment complex built specifically for low-income farm workers. The development is phase two of the award winning Los Adobes de Maria project that was completed in 1995.

Along with the City of Santa Maria, the United States Department of Agriculture, the County of Santa Barbara, and state agencies have worked cooperatively to ensure the development of this new housing. Paul Venosdel, State Director of Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture recently toured the site and indicated that his department subsidizes costs to keep the monthly rents low.

The buildings feature two- and three-bedroom apartments, a community room, a tutoring room, two health screening rooms, and a soccer field and basketball court which can be used by residents living at both LADM I & II.

Representatives from USDA Rural Development

from left:
Janice Vaughn,
Jim McIntire,
John Diodati,
Paul Venosdel,
Gurcharan Dhillon



Santa Maria Times
Letter to the Editor
April 16, 2004

Work Housing Great for City

On behalf of President Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, it was an honor and pleasure to be a part of the tour of the recently completed Los Adobes de Maria farm worker housing complex in Santa Maria.

I would like to thank Jeanette Duncan, executive director of People's Self-Help Housing Corp., for her hospitality.

It was a great day for us, and I commend all of those who are working hard to improve the quality of lives for the people in Santa Maria.

Paul Venosdel
State Director
USDA
Rural Development/California

Wells Fargo Makes Housing Commitment for Seniors

Wells Fargo presented Peoples' Self-Help Housing with a check for \$25,000 at Creekside Gardens, a 29-unit senior housing development in Paso Robles. Wells Fargo has a long history of partnering with PSHH to support affordable housing and to meet the needs of the senior population in San Luis Obispo County.

"Our goal, with respect to seniors, is to help them remain independent as long as possible," said Jeanette Duncan, Executive Director of Peoples' Self-Help Housing. "In addition to the housing we provide, we have social workers that help our senior residents connect with services and resources which assist them with household chores, buying groceries, and getting medical supplies delivered."

"Peoples' Self Help Housing's history in creating affordable housing for those most in need, including seniors, makes Wells Fargo's commitment to them very rewarding," said Erica Huntzinger, San Luis Obispo Market Area President. "Wells Fargo is proud of the role it plays in supporting the valuable work of Peoples' Self-Help Housing."

In addition to Creekside Gardens, PSHH is also developing a 69-unit, affordable rental complex for families in Paso Robles.



From left: Steve Carroll, Carroll Builders; Jackie Sims, Paso Robles Wells Fargo Branch Manager; Barbara Wynn, Site Manager of Los Robles Terrace; Jeanette Duncan, PSHH Executive Director; Erica Huntzinger, Wells Fargo Market Area President

Working Together to Improve Health for Carpinteria Families

There is nothing more vital to a community than the health and well-being of its members. Families living at Peoples' Self-Help Housing's Carpinteria Camper Park and Dahlia Court Apartments are benefiting from bighearted health care providers who have partnered with PSHH. New health partnerships include a visiting Parish Nurse Program at the Camper Park and Dahlia Court; SEE International Vision Care and the Santa Barbara Eyeglass Factory; Direct Relief International and Planned Parenthood Promotoras Program. These partnerships are giving Carpinteria families opportunities for better health!

In cooperation with the Jackson Family Foundation and the St. Francis Foundation, Parish Nurse Alicia Jacobson began visiting families last month at the Camper Park and Dahlia Court. The families have a myriad of health concerns, but have not been able to address them because of the high cost of health care. The Parish Nurse can quickly identify health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and at-risk pregnancy. At times she may refer families to a specialist or ensure transportation for them. Most important is the relationship of trust that develops between the families and health care providers. Alicia sees more than 20 individuals each week.

SEE International in partnership with the Santa Barbara Eyeglass Factory, offered a free vision screening clinic at Dahlia Court where 54 individuals from Dahlia and the Camper Park were screened and fitted for eyeglasses. Upon learning of their poor eyesight, some individuals were able to trace learning difficulties to their newly diagnosed eye problems. It is always heartening to find ways to help children overcome obstacles that previously prevented them from becoming confident and successful.

Direct Relief International, along with local dental health providers, were able to address urgent dental needs, provide preventative education and supply personal hygiene and dental care packets. Planned Parenthood along with the Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics have been long time supporters of the health care program at Dahlia Court. Carpinteria families now regularly attend the Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics Eastside Clinic, and Planned Parenthood continues to conduct their Promotoras Peer Education Program at Dahlia. Because of generous contributions from a caring community, families are thriving!



"Woman of Spirit" Elvia Garcia Recognized for Community Involvement

Each year, the Santa Maria Valley Women's Network chooses four women to publicly recognize with the Women of Excellence Award for their integrity, courage and commitment to serving their communities. This year Elvia Garcia, PSHH's Site Manager at Los Adobes de Maria I & II (117 farm worker units in Santa Maria), was selected to receive this prestigious award. Elvia was recognized as the "Woman of Spirit," which honors her generosity of spirit and her tireless dedication to many different causes. Elvia's deep understanding of the needs of her community has led her to devote an enormous amount of time to helping fulfill those needs.

Elvia began her professional career at the Santa Barbara Housing Authority helping low-income families find affordable rental housing. Three years ago she came to work with Peoples' Self-Help Housing and immediately recognized the need for adult and youth education programs while working with the families at Los Adobes. She took the initiative to develop new programming to fulfill their needs with the help of Allan Hancock College and community volunteers.

Elvia and Peoples' have had a long term relationship as Elvia was just a child in 1976 when her parents built a self-help home in Nipomo. Elvia learned first hand the importance of hard work, the significance of education and the importance of role models in the lives of children. Equipped with these insights and her Father's advice, "It is never too late. Ask God for strength, set goals, and look for the resources you need," no obstacle was too difficult for her to overcome. We are quite proud of Elvia and her family's self-help experience that influenced her to give back to the community. We thank her for all her dedication to so many families and we look forward to a long, prosperous working relationship with her for years to come.

Eager Whale Watchers Head Out to Sea



Recently, twenty-six children and ten adults from eight different Peoples' Self-Help Housing rental developments in San Luis Obispo County went on a whale watching trip. For some of the youth, it was the first time they had ever been on a boat. Arriving early in the morning, with eyes barely open, these lucky folks eagerly boarded with great anticipation. While at sea, they saw whales and sea otters, and learned about the ocean and the marine life native to our coast.

This whale watching trip was made possible by the Coastal Commission through their Whale Tail Conservation education program. The Coastal Commission provided Peoples' Self Help Housing with a generous multi-year grant to coordinate educational conservation and environmental programs. Last year, this education program was conducted in the Santa Barbara South Coast and was expanded this year to include San Luis Obispo County.



Mary Solorio Jacka **PSHH Board Hero**

Mary Solorio Jacka, PSHH Board Member, is the youngest of eight children, and the daughter of immigrant farm workers. After working in the fields, she became a Teachers Aid for the Migrant Education/Bilingual Program with the Santa Maria Elementary School District, and the Director for the Tanglewood Youth Recreation Association. Her

knowledge of the life of farm workers and the significant issues they face has led her to do considerable work to support similar families on the Central Coast.

Mary has been a Community Worker with California Rural Legal Assistance for over 20 years. She is a liaison between minority groups and community organizations, and acts as an interpreter for Spanish-speaking clients.

She helped found the Interfaith Community Organizing Project which is a coalition of 19 churches that advocate for the poor. As a PSHH Board Member, Mary has been advocating for the development of farm worker housing. In her work with PSHH, Mary was a key leader in the development of the Los Adobes de Maria apartment complexes built specifically for low-income farm workers.

PSHH is thankful for her commitment to making affordable housing accessible to farm workers, and bringing Los Adobes de Maria I and II to fruition. We appreciate her knowledge and experience that she brings to the Board of Directors.

"Recycle Through Art"



Kids Raise Recycling Awareness **at Earth Day Festival**



This year, PSHH paired up with Art from Scrap to teach 80 children at three of Peoples' Self-Help Housing's affordable housing complexes about the importance of recycling and how to create artwork using recycled and natural materials. The kids worked for 7 weeks and produced over 100 pieces of art which were displayed at the Earth Day Festival in Santa Barbara.

In addition to teaching others about creating art from recycled material, the kids want to raise awareness about the importance of recycling and reusing material locally and globally. "If we can just make one person think about recycling then that would be great," said 11 year-old Waritza, a resident of Milagro de Ladera Apartments.





Peoples' Self-Help Housing

San Luis Obispo Office
3533 Empleo Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 781-3088

Santa Barbara Office
26 E. Victoria Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 962-5152

www.pshhc.org

Newsletter from Peoples' Self-Help Housing

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Luis Obispo
California
Permit No. 294

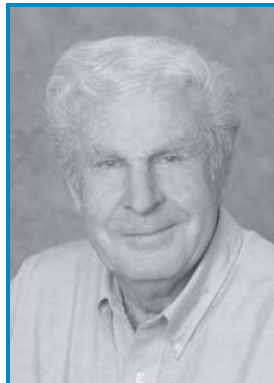


Welcome to Our Team!



Scott Figenshow recently joined our team as the Rental Development Director. Scott was previously Executive Director of Project New Hope in Los Angeles, a nonprofit housing corporation which developed over 400 units of special needs housing in San Pedro, Hollywood, Santa Monica, and other LA areas. He has a Masters in Urban Planning from UCLA.

Jim Hurst, PSHH's new Construction Director and Responsible Management Employee, has over 35 years of construction experience. He previously supervised the acquisition and rehabilitation of six PSHH apartment complexes in Santa Barbara over the past seven years. Most recently he supervised the construction of Los Adobes de Maria II, a 52-unit farm worker rental complex in Santa Maria.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dieter Eckert M.D., President
B. Ray Gateley, Vice President
Carolyn Johnson, Secretary
Charles Fruit, Treasurer
Jeannie Barrett, Esq.
The Honorable Steven D. Belasco
Donald Carey, Th.D
Mary Solorio Jacka
Geoffrey Phillips, MD
Adele Rosen
Susan Broidy

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Stanley Bell
Jose Lemus
Michael Towbes