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San Bernardino Renovates, Adds Services

The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino's (HACSB) is living up to its slogan -- Building Communities, Changing Lives -- at its Medical Center apartment complex.

"We are using a two-prong approach to transform this community," said Susan Benner, HACSB's Executive Director. "We are doing construction rehab work and improving services to help residents be self-sufficient."

The rehab work includes complete remodeling of the exterior and interior green upgrades. The exterior renovations include new stucco schemes, dual pane low E windows, security screens on all windows and doors, new coolers, new system for future satellite dish installations, landscaping that reduces the need for irrigation (xeriscaping), new roofs and solar panels. The interior renovations include replacing inefficient lighting, water heaters, refrigerators, lead-based paint with low volatile organic compounds, adding attic insulation, and installing Photovoltaic systems to convert solar energy into electricity to further reduce electricity consumption at the Medical Center complex.

As these upgrades take place, HACSB provides ongoing tips through meetings and mailings to teach residents how to conserve water and energy. These upgrades are transforming entire households. "Through all this work, the residents' self-esteem has rocketed. We feel like we live in a modern community. Look at all the work...for us...for the community," said resident Yvonne Dowling.



Before

The Housing Authority has partnered with Loma Linda University to conduct a needs assessment to better understand the daily challenges residents face and how the agency can better serve them. HACSB will use the assessment to bring together partners to help residents leverage local resources. “We want to provide more than just housing for our residents and this is a great start,” said Ms. Benner. “Our goal is to open a community resource center for all residents in San Bernardino County, not just those in public housing. We

want to build a place where families and community providers can come together.”



After

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