



Our House

SRO Housing Corporation pursues its mission of community revitalization by providing clean, safe and affordable housing, managing public space and administering needed support services.

And The Winners Are...

Did You Know?

- SRO residents volunteer their time to show "Movies on the Nickel" at the JWCC every week.
- Movies are shown in a theater-like setting every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 7:30 p.m.
- Screening films in a community space is a way to encourage a healthy, normative community. People from all over the neighborhood, including the Little Tokyo Lofts, a local market-rate housing site, are attending!

Congratulations to **Teryhea Lattimore** and **Jesse M. Mejia**, the winners of the newsletter title competition.

Teryhea's entry of "Our House" was selected to be the title of this newsletter. Jesse's entry of "Community Echoes" was chosen to head news and

information about the community at large.

We received 80 suggestions from 13 people. One person submitted a total of 16 suggestions!

The Executive Management Team reviewed all 80 entries on Tuesday, August 24 and

selected the two winners after a lengthy and spirited discussion. Both Teryhea and Jesse will receive \$50.00 American Express Gift Cheques.

Congratulations!

Important Employee Benefits— California Paid Family Leave, E-Central Credit Union & Educational Reimbursement

With the July 1, 2004 implementation of the **Paid Family Leave** program, California is the first state in the country to declare that workers should not have to choose between caring for their families and their paycheck. Current state and federal law guarantees 12 weeks of unpaid leave for those working for larger employers like SRO Housing Corporation. This new law guarantees that six of those weeks would be paid. By paying a few cents each pay period into the State Disability Insurance Fund, workers will receive up to six weeks of paid leave per year to care for a new child (birth, adoption, or foster care) or a seriously ill family member (parent, child, spouse, or domestic partner).

This program is 100% employee-funded. A minimum-

wage earner will pay an additional \$11.23 a year into SDI, while the estimated average cost is \$27 per worker per year. The benefit will replace up to 55% of wages, up to a maximum of \$728 per week in 2004. The maximum benefit will increase automatically each year in accordance with increases in the state's average weekly wage. For more information, contact Human Resources or Paid Family Leave at 1-877-238-4373.

E-Central Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative owned and operated by its members. Unlike a bank, the credit union is able to offer higher dividend rates on deposit accounts and charge lower interest rates on loans. *Valuable Benefits:* Savings Accounts, Checking Accounts, Loans, Convenience and On-

line services. Payday Lending/Check Cashing services are being researched to possibly offer to SRO Housing Corporation members.

For more information, contact Human Resources.

SRO Housing Corporation feels that individuals who possess a desire to continue their education, in addition to performing their full-time job responsibilities, show a commitment to improving themselves and their position within the Company. To encourage and reward these individuals SRO Housing Corporation offers an **Education Reimbursement** benefit.

For more information about this benefit, contact Human Resources or refer to Section 5017 Employee Education, Page 46 of the Employee Handbook.

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Employee Spotlight—Jesuit Volunteer Corps

Since 1956, more than 7,000 members of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps have committed themselves to working with the poor. Hundreds of grassroots organizations across the country count on Jesuit Volunteers to provide essential services to low-income people and those who live on the margins of our society.

Jesuit Volunteers serve the homeless, the unemployed, refugees, people with AIDS, the elderly, street youth, abused women and children, the mentally ill and the developmentally disabled. The Jesuit Volunteer program, which is based on the four principles of simplicity, community, social justice and spirituality, has become the largest Catholic lay volunteer program in the country.

SRO Housing Corporation began hosting JVC members in 1993. This year two JVC members, Brenda Lindgren,

25, and Anne Wagoner, 24, are placed at SRO Housing Corporation. Brenda works as a Case Manager with the Shelter Plus Care Program and is located in the Ellis Hotel. Anne, who has an office in the Russ Hotel, also works as a Case Manager with the Shelter Plus Care Program. We asked Brenda and Anne a few questions about themselves and their experiences so far.

SRO: *What brought you to the Jesuit Volunteer Corps?*

Brenda: I graduated from college three years ago and found that it was very hard to get a job. Once I got a job, I realized that I wasn't getting anything from it other than a paycheck; it wasn't fulfilling. I decided that I wanted to make a difference and be of service.

Anne: I've wanted to do social work for a long time but I have few practical skills. I thought that through the JVC I'd get some experience and community sup-

port and a focus on spirituality.

SRO: *What do you think about Skid Row?*

Anne: I've never seen a place like this in the States before. The cops are right around the corner but it seems like they've given up.

Brenda: It's surprising that they created this area to put all the homeless people.

Anne: It's like they're corraling them so they don't have to deal with the problem.

SRO: *What's it been like to work with residents and clients?*

Anne: The hardest thing is feeling the responsibility of being an advocate for someone. I don't want to mess it up.

SRO: *How do you feel when you walk through the neighborhood?*

Anne: I feel sad and frustrated and disturbed. But I've started to recognize people and know their stories and it's starting to feel like a neighborhood.

SRO: *What's your vision for the neighborhood?*

Anne: I'd like to see Section 8 housing outside of Skid Row so that once someone is clean and sober they can go somewhere else; someplace where the drugs aren't right in front of them, someplace where it's easier to stay sober.

Brenda: I'd like to see Skid Row treated like the rest of the city. It should be kept clean and the things that aren't accepted in other neighborhoods shouldn't be accepted here.



Brenda and Anne

Milestones

Birthdays

October: Rosalind Irons-Harris, Gilbert Grijalva, Ronald Dickerson, Thomas Canada, Joe Hardnett, Keith Kennedy, Angela Gilbert, Vivian Wade, Danny Hampton.

November: Earnest Cullom, Darren L. Day, Aaron Anderson, Jorge Tavera-Ochoa, Pamela Woodard, Bernard Johnson, Deborah Martin, Bobby Torrence, Nancy Hartwell, Gabriel Peralta, Raphael Garcia, Sonja Gatson.

December: Lea Chavez, John Frasier, Neptali Galdamez, Deborah Krainin, Donnie Pinkett, Matthew Brown, David Louis Cook, Derrick T. Funderburk, Anne Wagoner, Kelly Boyce, Roy Williams, Darnell Guy, Harry Herring, Lawrence Moore, Denice Shelton.

Anniversaries

October: Keith Kennedy, Charlotte Wilson, Darryl Broadnax, Aaron Anderson, Mohammed Miah, Deborah Krainin, Lea Chavez, Gilbert Grijalva, Javier Olmos, Thelma Heflin, Lawrence Shoffner, Kelly Boyce, Cesar Hernandez, Joel Hamilton, Angela Gilbert, Ronald Lyons, Gabriel Peralta.

November: Alex Lantsman, Charles Wafer, Bobby Torrence, Johnnie Givens, Claudine Mitchell.

December: Darren L. Day, Rosa Ortiz, Ann Marie Leslie, Apollo Pharaoh, Melvin Pugh, Daniel Nava, James Wilson, Lenora Moore, Dennis Alexander, John Blackmon, Victor Lopez, Lannell Thompson, Denice Walker, Roy Williams.

Welcome

Betty Norman, Donald Gordon, Ginger Reed, David Louis Cook, Barbara Elleby, Cindy Qiu, Anne Wagoner, Brenda Lindgren, Ronald Dickerson, Robert James, Juan Carlos Callejas, Juan Magana, Charles Watson, Renee Rodriguez, Roderick Bagsby.

Good-bye and good luck

Juan Garcia, David Myers, Loanne Wu, Leon Lewis, McKinley Thomas, Marvin Luna, Willie Gardner, Tim Shine, Tom Willey, Luke Drummond, David Patterson.



Happy Birthday!

Thank you for another year of service!

Community Echoes

“Recovery Matters”

San Julian Park and James M. Wood Community Center, Sunday, August 7—Community members, advocates and neighborhood organizations took the word RECOVERY and created an event designed to stimulate a “return to health, discovery of Self, improvement in family relationships and engagement in community development.” The event opened with words by Don Garza, the Los Angeles Town Crier and Rev.



Rickey Garner from the Church of the Nazarene.

Events included an art exhibit, curated by Vachelle McFarland and video presentation by Kevin Johnson and H.A.L.F-Way Back Productions. The Peace N Hood Art/Color Contest for children, conceptualized and organized by Manny



“OG Man” Compito, resulted in the creation of new characters, “Peacemaker” and

“Sugargirl,” and an invitation for the children to show their artwork at LA City Firehouse #23.



Event organizers and participants offered moving testimonies, poetry, performance and song.



The day closed with a special film screening in the James M. Wood Community Center. Thanks go to the many individuals and groups who helped to realize a vision of coalition building. Key partners included: OG’s N Service, H.O.P.E., U.C.E.P.P., LACAN, H.A.L.F-Way Back Productions, Healthy Hearts, Z and Friends, SRO Housing Corporation, Church of the Nazarene, Unified Fathers for Life and the Dream Center.



Patrick R. Ryan, Poet

Patrick R. Ryan lives at the Madison Hotel. Originally from Dublin, Mr. Ryan has lived in Los Angeles for many years. “Ballad and Balance” a collection of his poems, was published by Halcyon Press in 1999.

Westlake No Walden Patrick R. Ryan

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Not a dreamlike pool, remote,
treasury of gems afloat,
such a scene as Claude Monet
would in ecstasy portray;

Not a pristine pond, austere,
such as Thoreau would revere;
what I bring to your regard
is a basin in a yard.

Smog infected breezes waft
over palms and pedal craft,
over swings and rides and ducks,
over buses, cars, and trucks.

Two commanders, cast in metal,
have no further wars to settle;
useless when invading fumes
source the jacaranda blooms.

Surreptitious liquor flows,
losing gamblers come to blows;
can-collectors sort the trash,
drudgery for little cash.

Addicts on a shaded slope
wait to buy their specks of dope;
crack suppliers make a run,
cops deploy to stop the fun.

Prentice fireman chant and jog,
pigeons tantalize a dog;
knowing kibitzers address
problems in the game of chess.

Still a pleasure after rain,
then pollution strikes again;
should there be a mournful bell
tolling from the concert shell?

Grim, despairing prospect, dark!
How can oil out live the park?
Forty years will end its sway,
absolutely no replay.

Trees will flourish then and grass;
Ford and Hammer’s curse will pass;
sheiks will tour, as Allah meant,
camel-borne from tent to tent.

Stars and comets will be seen,
now beyond a carbon screen;
fish will find their way in water,
bicycles will do no slaughter.

Westlake Park will still be here,
other guys will try that beer;
suckers will resign and pay,
just as we observed today.



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Single Room Occupancy Housing Corporation (SRO Housing) was established in February 1984. It is a private, non-profit, community-based organization which is dedicated to building a healthy community for homeless and very low-income individuals in Los Angeles' Central City East neighborhood--more commonly known as "Skid Row". SRO Housing pursues its mission of community revitalization by providing clean, safe and affordable housing, managing public space, and administering needed social support services.

To achieve this goal, SRO Housing strives to preserve the existing turn-of-the-century, single-room-occupancy hotels in downtown Los Angeles. It purchases these hotels and completely renovates and refurbishes them as well as constructs new ones. SRO Housing supports efforts, within the public and private sectors, to secure adequate housing for homeless individuals throughout Los Angeles County. In addition to providing low-income housing, SRO provides the social support services needed to assist individuals toward accessing and remaining in independent living situations. Individuals in SRO housing are connected with a wide range of services including money management, job search, recovery programs, food services, case management, cultural socialization and recreation activities, mental health services, health screenings, etc. SRO Housing is committed to preserving and enhancing the dignity and self-respect of all persons who are in need of low-income housing and social support services.

Upcoming Events

Bring L.A. Home Community Meeting

Thursday, October 14
6:30 p.m.

James M. Wood Community Center

Tenant Appreciation Day

Friday, October 15
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Gladys Park

"I Voted!" Party

Tuesday, November 2
2:00 p.m.

James M. Wood Community Center

Annual Veteran's Day Luncheon

Thursday, November 11
1:00 p.m.

James M. Wood Community Center

Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 10
Time: TBA
Grace Simmons Lodge

Annual Tree Lighting

Friday, December 17
5:00 p.m.
San Julian Park

Annual Homeless and Low-Income Memorial

Wednesday, December 22
2:00 p.m.

James M. Wood Community Center

Professional Development

We appreciate the effort to gain more knowledge.

Of special note:

Marshall Clark, Manager Training, Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles; All Case Management Services staff, HIV/AIDS and Substance Use, Individualized Action Plans, Psychiatric Medications, Multi-Cultural Diversity; All Housing Management staff, Customer Service Training; All Finance Department staff, Yardi Training; Cindy Qiu, ADP PC/Payroll; Derrick Woo, Yardi Report writing for DBA's, MS Exchange Server, Kronos User Group, Veritas Backup.

