



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

SERVING THE HOMELESS

UPDATES ON HOMELESS SERVICES IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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Children from Family Shelter Enjoy Day at Zoo Thanks to Donor

On June 7, nearly 50 children from the Family Seasonal Shelter were treated to a day at the San Diego Zoo, courtesy of a private donor.

The six-hour activity was a great educational and recreational opportunity for the children.

Ranging in age from 3 to 17, the children were divided into nine small groups and teamed up with St. Vincent de Paul Village staff members. A highlight of the day was a visit to the children's zoo where they could get close to the animals.

The family shelter is one of three facilities that make up the City's Winter Shelter Program. St. Vincent de Paul was contracted to operate the shelters.

The zoo visit was one of several activities for children living in the shelter that have taken place this year. In January, nearly 50 children visited the Children's Museum in downtown. The youngsters also received visits from Santa Claus last winter and the Easter Bunny in April.

An estimated 200 unduplicated families have taken refuge in the family shelter since it opened on Dec. 15, 2000. Originally scheduled to close on June 30, the City hopes to keep the family shelter open until the new Cortez Hill Family Center is ready this fall.

City Receives \$2.7 Million Loan Guarantee from HUD for Family Center

The City of San Diego has received a \$2.7 million loan guarantee from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to help fund acquisition, rehabilitation and construction of the planned Cortez Hill Family Center.

The center will be a short-term, transitional housing facility for homeless families. Input from the community was incorporated into the planning to convert the old Days Inn motel on Ninth Avenue into a family facility.

Construction is scheduled to begin this summer and the center should open in the fall.

The loan is made available through a provision of HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The provision provides communities with a source of financing for economic development, housing rehabilitation, public facilities, and large-scale physical development projects.

The City applied for the loan in January. To qualify, the City had to show that the center met HUD's national objective of serving homeless people. The City will repay the loan over the next 16 years with CDBG funds.

The City is also pursuing other grants to help with costs associated with the center.

As proposed, the center would accommodate as many as 150 homeless family members at a time. The families would receive case management,

counseling, health care, jobs, and other social services.

Staying at the facility would help families stabilize their lives and move into long-term programs and allow them to save money and eventually rent their own homes. The City will contract with a social services agency to operate the facility.

The City completed the purchase of the 30-year-old motel in May. Total acquisition cost for the site was \$2.66 million. The City's Community and Economic Development Department is overseeing the project, with assistance from the Real Estate Assets, Engineering and Capital Projects, and Development Services departments; the City Attorney's Office; and Centre City Development Corp.

More Information About Homeless Services

The City's Homeless Services Program is administered by the Community Services Division of the City's Community and Economic Development Department.

Back issues of the *Serving the Homeless* newsletter are available on the Homeless Services web page of the City's web site: www.sandiego.gov.

For more information about the City's Homeless Services Program, call (619) 533-6525, or visit the City's web site.