



# HOPE SF

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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### Resident Services Connection Program Launched

In March 2009, a team of City partners launched the Service Connection Program at the Hunters View development. The goals of this innovative program are four-fold:

- 1) To ensure that all residents are connected to needed services, employment and job preparation;
- 2) To ensure that all residents who are interested in employment are in engaged in career preparation and/or job placement activities;
- 3) To ensure that the children and youth in the development are succeeding in and out of school; and

- 4) To offer asset building and wealth creation opportunities and to support residents' efforts to further their education, start a business or pursue homeownership.

How will they do it? A six member team will exclusively serve Hunters View families.

- Two Service Connectors will work closely with families to develop a plan for building on their unique strengths to accomplish goals such as education, employment, childcare, etc.
- Four Peer Outreach Coaches will help link families to the services they need and advocate on behalf of residents who are working hard to improve their lives and circumstances.

The services team members will begin their work with the Hunters View families by interviewing each family to determine their service needs.

For any questions on the Hunters View Service Connection Program, please contact Amy Tharpe at the Mayor's Office of Housing at (415) 701-5500.

### Jobs Are Coming to Hunters View

Construction related jobs as well as “end-use” jobs, like property management in the new development, will result directly from the redevelopment of HOPE SF sites. As with any kind of employment, applicants will be required to meet minimum skill and experience requirements to qualify for these positions. The Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Communities of Opportunity, the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and the development team are working on the job training, employment opportunity and local contracting plans to ensure that residents of Hunters View and the broader community can take advantage of the job and business opportunities that result from this revitalization.

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The City is focusing current efforts on reaching out to Hunters View residents to connect them with:

- CityBuild Academy (a 12-week, pre-apprenticeship construction training program),
- RAMP-SF (a six week, paid job readiness training for 18-24 year olds), and
- The San Francisco One Stop Career Link Centers (for general employment services, support, and referrals to other employment and training opportunities).

For more information about employment opportunities, Hunters View residents should connect with Regina Whitaker, Service Connector, at (415) 375-7630/ reginaw@edgewoodcenter.org, or Sam Massol, Community Builder, at (415) 345-4409/ smassol@jso.net. New job training programs will start in April 2009 and will continue to be offered over the coming months, so keep an eye out for announcements!

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### San Francisco Housing Authority Awarded \$17.9 Million For Repairs

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The San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA) was awarded \$17.9 million through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to provide residential capital improvements to distressed public housing over the next two years. The stimulus funding will improve nearly 1,800 SFHA homes. A snapshot of the work to be done includes: fixing 200 vacant apartments so that they can provide housing to families on the SFHA wait list, upgrades to fire alarm systems for over 300 apartments and weatherize and repaint another 1,231 apartments.

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### I Hear Bulldozers in the Distance!

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The San Francisco Housing Authority Commission has approved the Hunters View Relocation Plan after months of work by the Relocation Plan Working Group--a committed group of Hunters View residents, tenant advocates, housing developers, and City staff who worked tirelessly over many weeks at the Hunters View Tenants Association office to ensure that the needs of residents

were considered in every aspect of relocation. Approximately one third of Hunters View residents will move into their newly rehabbed units this spring/summer 2009 for temporary relocation during the first stage of construction.

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### Mercy/Related Opens Sunnydale Office

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The Mercy/Related team opened a brand new office at the Sunnydale-Velasco site. It is located at 1657 Sunnydale Avenue and everyone is welcome to drop in, grab a cookie and talk with two members of the development team: Tonja Boykin and Michelle Daniels. They want to hear from you about your ideas, answer your questions and provide you with up-to-date information about the HOPE SF development. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9am – 5pm and the phone number is (415) 452-9744.

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### Mercy Housing Tackles Community Concerns

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Mercy Housing California and The Related Companies of California are getting to know residents and tackling community concerns before beginning the collaborative process of planning with residents for the future development.

Mercy/Related hopes to build on the talents and energy of Sunnydale and Visitacion Valley residents and welcomes your ideas for important community building projects. Mercy/Related has launched Studio Mondays at Sunnydale for young people aspiring to create and produce music that is positive for their community. Mercy/Related is also starting to work with community members to create a Safety Collaborative, which will plan and execute concrete actions to improve community safety. Mercy/Related is also eyeing to improve the Cleo Nelson Community Garden behind the Willie L. Brown Community Center that has fallen into disrepair.

Mercy/Related is also organizing small meetings at peoples' homes and local businesses to  
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provide a comfortable place where people can express their questions and issues about the revitalization.

### “BRIDGE”ing the Divide

In August of last year, the BRIDGE development team began a series of community meetings to engage residents of the Potrero Terrace and Potrero Annex public housing sites and the larger Potrero Hill community in planning for the rebuilding of the residents’ homes. Community members enthusiastically came together in productive collaboration, overcoming the lack of understanding that often divides public housing from surrounding neighborhoods. The first three meetings focused on existing conditions at Potrero and “likes and dislikes.” Then over 70 residents and BRIDGE team participants took a bus tour of new developments in the City and used disposable cameras to document things they liked and didn’t like at the completed developments. Beginning in 2009, the BRIDGE development team also conducted a series of “focus groups” on topics such as safety, sustainability, open space and building prototypes in order to gather information from residents and neighbors on these issues. The team also hosted two Town Hall meetings to bring residents and the larger community together in planning. Additional details about these meetings can be found at [www.rebuildpotrero.com](http://www.rebuildpotrero.com).

### Calling All Westside Courts Residents

Westside Housing Initiatives, LLC, and its Community Outreach Team (including Clear Focus Coaching and Rev. Arnold Townsend) is reaching out to Westside Courts residents to actively participate in planning for revitalization efforts.

The Community Outreach Plan will build on the talent and energy of residents to do door-to-door outreach, a community building day, targeted resident focus groups and ultimately, to implement additional resident and community programs (such as field trips, sporting events

and hobby nights) for seniors, youth and young adults. These events are scheduled to occur over the next three months. The Westside Courts Tenants Council will be assisting in the outreach efforts and are valuable team members that are taking an active role in the HOPE SF revitalization efforts at Westside Courts.

### Youth Think Tank

How can the new Hunters View respond to the special needs of children and youth? This is the question being explored by 3rd and 4th grade students in Mr. Moore and Ms. Fredrikson’s classes at Malcolm X Academy (the elementary school adjacent to Hunters View). This spring, the children are working with architectural educator Shirl Buss from the UC Berkeley Center for Cities and Schools and her colleagues from the SF Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) on a series of hands-on architecture and planning projects to identify and document the students’ visions for how this housing development can be a catalyst for positive change in the community. So far the children have done a preliminary assessment of existing conditions in the neighborhood, looked at inspirational photos of ideal community environments and developed models of their ideas for what might enrich the public spaces in the new housing development. The students are looking for opportunities to create more meaningful, child-friendly connections between the school and the community.



Two students at Malcom X Academy enjoy a community mapping activity.

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## HOPE SF Glossary

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**Service Connector:** Trained caseworkers who work with HOPE SF residents to enhance their families' lives by facilitating access to available services, supports and resources.

**Peer Outreach Coaches:** Public housing residents who are employed by HOPE SF and trained to help link families to the services they need and to advocate on their behalf.

**Community Builder:** HOPE SF community organizers who work in HOPE SF communities with residents and neighbors to organize fun activities and address neighborhood concerns such as safety, parks facilities, employment and recreation.

**The UC Berkeley Center for Cities and Schools:** A program at the University of California at Berkeley that works to promote high-quality education as an essential component of urban development. They are currently working with students and teachers at Malcolm X Elementary School, the John Stewart Company and the Mayor's Office of Housing to recommend strategies to deliver the best educational opportunities to the Hunters View community.

**San Francisco Housing Authority (SFHA):** The current property owner and landlord of all public housing in San Francisco, including HOPE SF sites. After redevelopment, ownership will be transferred to independent non-profit and for-profit affordable housing owners.

**Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH):** The City agency coordinating all aspects of the HOPE SF redevelopment process in collaboration with the San Francisco Housing Authority and selected housing developers.

**Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD):** The City agency coordinating job training and hiring policies during the HOPE SF redevelopment process.

**CityBuild Academy:** A program that provides recruiting, training and job placement services in the construction industry.

**RAMP-SF:** A job preparation program for people ages 18-24 that combines a 6-week class to build workplace skills, paid work experience, educational services, and intensive support.

**One Stop Career Link Centers:** Centers that provide job seeker and employment services. For San Francisco residents, One Stops offer job search assistance, case management, job training, recruitment, placement and retention services.

The One Stops are located in:

- Chinatown: 777 Stockton Street, San Francisco, CA 94108
- Western Addition: 1449 Webster Street, San Francisco, CA 94115
- Civic Center: 801 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102
- South of Market: 1500 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94103
- Mission: 3120 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
- Bayview: 1800 Oakdale Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94124

**HOPE SF Development Teams:** Four teams of housing developers chosen by the City to rebuild four public housing developments (Hunters View, Westside Courts, Sunnydale, and Potrero Terrace & Annex) into newly revitalized, mixed-income communities. Development teams are currently working with residents and neighbors to develop plans for revitalization.

**Hunters View Community Partners, LP:** A team of housing developers comprised of John Stewart Company, Devine & Gong and Ridge Point Non-Profit Housing Corporation, that was chosen by the City to rebuild Hunters View.

**Westside Housing Initiatives, LLC (WHI):** A joint venture including Em Johnson Interest and TMG Partners, two housing developers, that was chosen by the City to rebuild Westside Courts.

**Mercy/Related:** A team comprised of Mercy Housing California, The Related Companies of California and Van Meter Williams Pollack, that was chosen by the City to rebuild Sunnydale.

**BRIDGE Development Team:** A team comprised of BRIDGE Housing Corporation, BUILD, Equity Community Builders, Curtis Development & Consulting and Van Meter Williams Pollack, that was chosen by the City to rebuild Potrero Terrace & Annex.

**Relocation Plan:** A plan that describes the process for relocating current residents to temporary housing while construction is underway and outlines the roles, responsibilities and rights of everyone involved including the San Francisco Housing Authority, the City of San Francisco, residents and the housing developer.