



WEST HOLLYWOOD
COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION
COMMUNIQUE

ISSUE 10 | **SUMMER 2023**



New Beginnings

A Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

The days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer, and the scent of star jasmine lingers in the air—summer is here!

At WHCHC, summer means sunshine and optimism, life and vibrancy. New beginnings.

Earlier this year, we celebrated the grand opening of Berendo Sage with Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass. The community is now buzzing with activity. New residents have settled in, are connecting with critical supportive services and participating in life-enhancing programs on-site. **“Berendo Sage is a life saver! I love my life today and I wouldn’t give it up for anything,”** stated Rochelle, who said goodbye to shelter-living and hello to her own, brand-new apartment. You’ll be inspired by Rochelle and her neighbor, Ericka, featured in the following pages.

We know that homes prevent homelessness. With finishing touches falling into place, we are excited that Mariposa Lily in Los Angeles will soon open its doors, and Aloe Palm Canyon in Palm Springs will break ground this summer.

And just around the corner we will mark the 10th anniversary of the Courtyard at La Brea in West Hollywood. The multiple award-winning apartment community completed at the end of 2013. With its striking, ribbon-adorned façade, the Courtyard at La Brea embodies one of our core values: everyone deserves a beautiful place to live. Gregor, one of the first residents, remembers fondly, **“Moving in was heavenly. I had an anchor. I had a rock. I had lovely people who looked after me.”**

There are innumerable challenges to creating affordable housing. On behalf of our residents, thank you. Your support—as a contributor, as an advocate, as an ally—has direct impact. Your support builds homes and provides services that move community members from insecurity to stability. We couldn’t do it without you.

Thank you and kind regards,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jesse". The script is fluid and cursive.

Jesse Slansky
President & CEO

Enrichment with Nature



Surrounded by a celebration of flowers, smiles outnumbered blooms among the glowing older residents at **Hayworth House** in West Hollywood. Gatherings like these reduce social isolation and improves mood and cognition.



A longtime resident of **Sierra Bonita** in West Hollywood, Stephen stays active by swimming at the all new West Hollywood Aquatic and Recreation Center. Regular aquatic exercise is a huge benefit for those with limited mobility. "Swimming gives me freedom from my wheelchair and jumpstarts my day," said Stephen.



In the spirit of education and wellness, families from **Vermont Manzanita** in Los Angeles enjoyed an afternoon nature walk with the Wildwoods Foundation. The intergenerational group learned about birds, insects, plants and how to use a compass.

Berendo Sage

Resident Spotlight

Ericka

In January, Ericka and her three children (ages 18, 6 and 2) excitedly moved into Berendo Sage in Los Angeles. Newly single, Ericka feels blessed having extra space for her kids and being able to decorate her new home her way. She loves the supportive programs and social events hosted by resident services, especially the educational activities available for her children. With her new independence Ericka is looking forward to the future. After pausing in 2020, she plans to continue studying early childhood development. "Being here is helping me regain myself again," Ericka said with a big smile.



Mayor Bass
and Pamela



Rochelle

After spending too much time in a shelter, Rochelle told us, "I wake up happy and kiss my apartment every day!" As residents adjust to their new lives, Rochelle has quickly taken a leadership role as both a cheerleader and supporter to her neighbors, especially the younger ones. In the future Rochelle wants to be a counselor for people who experienced homelessness. "This was a blessing to me and I want to be a blessing to this place," she said smiling ear to ear.



Celebrating 10 Years at The Courtyard at La Brea

The Courtyard at La Brea in West Hollywood proudly recognizes 10 years of service to the community later this year. The residents at the multiple award-winning 32-unit apartment community reflect the wonderful diversity of greater Los Angeles. Home to everyone from a single mom with an adorable toddler, to people who live with a chronic condition, to older adults including those originally from the former Soviet Union. And it works! As we commemorate nearly a decade of people thriving with housing stability, one shares their story.

Gregor was one of the first residents to sign his lease and move in. He describes receiving the call that changed his life, "I couldn't believe it, it's more than luck. **It's more than winning the lottery, it is winning the lottery of life.** I was able to start new again."

Gregor had been an executive in the music industry when a sudden life crisis abruptly knocked him off track. Like far too many, things spiraled and he found himself in depression, eventually homeless and living out of his car. Gregor describes moving into his new apartment as beyond just a place to live. He now had a place to call home physically, psychologically and emotionally, with "WHCHC and the LA LGBT Center as my anchors."

During his decade living at the Courtyard at La Brea, Gregor has taken full advantage of all the resources provided through the resident services team. He is truly thankful for his good fortune and has deep compassion for anyone experiencing homelessness. He volunteers at food pantries and homeless shelters. Housing stability has allowed Gregor to succeed as he recently completed a semester with straight A's at Los Angeles City College studying anthropology, Spanish, public speaking and art. "Being part of the community is the best part, it feels like you have support, it's like a family," Gregor said with a big smile.



Patricia Arquette Visits Blue Hibiscus

Continuing her commitment to affordable housing advocacy, WHCHC's 35th Anniversary Gala honoree, Patricia Arquette, recently visited **Blue Hibiscus** in West Hollywood. Led by Board Member, Barrie Gruner, Patricia toured the building, met with a resident and discussed the state of affordable housing and its current challenges. We were honored to present the Advocate Award to such an esteemed and renowned activist, actress and supporter!



Be a Part of the Solution



Donate today.

Your support keeps residents housed and thriving.

www.WHCHC.org/donate



Watch What's Happening Now



Mariposa Lily

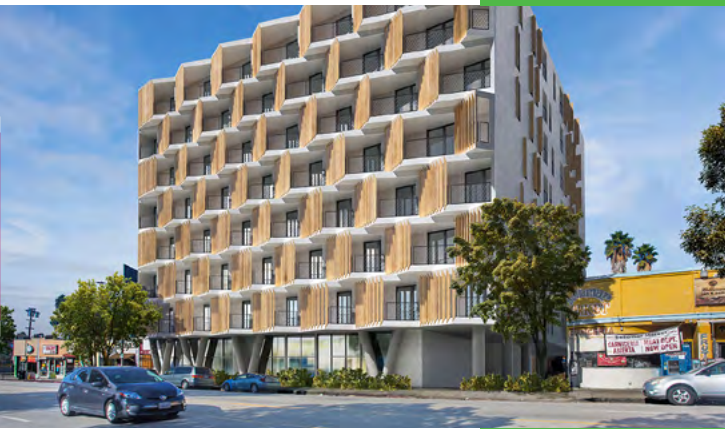
Koreatown/Pico-Union, Los Angeles

On track to complete this summer. 41 units for families with half reserved for households formerly experiencing homelessness.

Miramar Gold

Westlake North, Los Angeles

In early stages of construction. 94 units for low-income households, with half reserved for people formerly experiencing homelessness. Scheduled to be completed in winter 2024.



Third Thyme

Westlake North, Los Angeles

Construction just began in May. 104 units for seniors, with half reserved for formerly homeless households. Scheduled for completion in spring 2025.

Aloe Palm Canyon

Palm Springs

Scheduled to break ground later this summer. 71 units for seniors, with 25 reserved for seniors formerly experiencing homelessness. Planned for completion in summer 2025.



910 Wetherly Drive

West Hollywood

89 units for low- and moderate-income households, including workforce housing and those with special needs.



**West Hollywood
Community Housing Corporation**

7530 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90046

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OUR MISSION

Building homes and providing services
that move community members
from insecurity to stability.

WHCHC does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, disability,
familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other arbitrary basis.

