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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**HOUSING AUTHORITY SPONSORS  
FIRST ANNUAL JR. OLYMPICS**  
*Event aims to build a sense of community among  
families who live in public housing*

**Sacramento.** While thousands of athletes competed in Athens, Greece, for gold, silver and bronze medals, dozens of children who live in Sacramento's public housing got a chance to participate in the First Annual Jr. Olympics at the River Oaks housing complex.



"It teaches them teamwork," David Asfall of JBANTA Resources told a KQCA television news reporter. "It also gives them an opportunity to get outside of their neighborhood and work with other kids."

The day of Olympic-style track and field competition for 6 -12 year olds was organized by Resident Services in a partnership effort with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, Phoenix Park, JBANTA (a non-profit group that provides youth programs), Sacramento Parks and Recreation, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento, and the Public Housing Resident Advisory Board. Senior and disabled residents provided supervision.

The Housing Authority's First Annual Jr. Olympics is a community building opportunity that enables children who live in public housing to come together and participate in a positive resident activity through a competitive sports event that rewards them for a job well done. The event addresses SHRA's goal of improving the quality of life for families in public housing in Sacramento communities.

"This is part of working together and building community because that's what they're going to need all throughout life," Program Manager MaryLiz Paulson told the TV news reporter.

"The spirit is huge," said Jim Hastings of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento which provides site programs and helped train the children for the track and field events. "The kids are pumped up and it seems to be a real exciting event."

The children received gold, silver and bronze medals and everyone got a ribbon for competing in the games. One young athlete said he loved everything about the event. "People from my site winning, people from other sites winning," said 12 year old Lamont Brown. "It's just fun."

**SHRA** ([www.shra.org](http://www.shra.org)) is a Joint Powers Authority created by the City and County of Sacramento to represent both jurisdictions for affordable housing and community redevelopment needs. SHRA oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 13 redevelopment areas throughout the city and county, and is the region's leading public developer of affordable housing. The Agency provides a variety of programs for first-time homebuyers and offers several loan programs and other assistance to the business community. SHRA owns 3,600 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers about 11,700 rental assistance vouchers per month. SHRA has a FY 2004 budget of \$196 million and approximately 328 employees.

*"One Community, One Vision"*