



NEWS RELEASE

INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

CONTACT:

Angela Jones, Public Information Officer
(916) 440-1355 or (916) 919-3090
www.shra.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2013

**SACRAMENTO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY HOSTS
READING FAIR TO KICK OFF “3 BY 8 IS GREAT!” READING PROGRAM
FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING**

Sacramento, CA | Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency hosted a Reading Fair to officially launch the Sacramento Housing Authority “3 by 8 is Great!” Reading Program on Thursday, February 14, 2013 at the Marina Vista Community Center, 240 Seavey Circle, Sacramento. More than 85 parents and children from the community attended the event.



The Housing Authority’s 3 by 8 is Great! Program supports Mayor Kevin Johnson’s Sacramento READS! Campaign and the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. The GLR Campaign is a collaborative effort by funders, nonprofit partners, states and communities across the nation to ensure that more low-income children succeed. Mayor Johnson says reading proficiency matters and there is an urgent need to make sure children are on track by third grade.

“Third grade is a pivotal point in a student’s academic career; it’s when they transition from learning to read to reading to learn,” Johnson said. “All reports indicate that students reading below grade level at the end of third grade often fail to catch up and are more likely to drop out of high school, end up incarcerated, and have higher rates of unemployment later in life.”

SHRA’s reading program will initially serve children that live in the Marina Vista public housing community. More than half of the 326 children in grades K-3 attend the Leataata Floyd Elementary School across the street. The reading program will focus on parent involvement to address school readiness, school attendance and summer learning loss which are identified as the three key levers to grade-level reading.

SHRA (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. The Agency is the leading public developer of affordable housing and oversees residential and commercial revitalization activities in 14 redevelopment areas throughout the City and County. SHRA has a FY 2013 budget of \$169 million and 253 employees. The Agency owns and manages 3,144 units of public housing and is one of the largest landlords in Sacramento. SHRA also administers approximately 11,500 rental assisted vouchers per month.

“We have a unique relationship with the parents because our Housing Authority staff work with them everyday,” said SHRA Executive Director La Shelle Dozier. “So we’re in an excellent position to engage them, find out what they need from us to help their child do better at reading, and work with the school to help children accomplish grade level reading by the end of third grade which is typically 8 years old.”

According to statistics compiled by the Sacramento READS! Campaign, only 37% of third grade students in the City of Sacramento are reading at grade level, compared to 44% in the state. Studies show that 74% of students who are behind at the end of third grade never catch up.

The Reading Fair offered information for parents about reading and tutoring programs, reading resources and educational tools that are available to them. Every child was able to choose several books to take home and read. Over 500 books were donated by SHRA employees, Scholastic, The Bookworm and Sacramento READS! The Sacramento Public Library, River City Roadrunners, and Scholastic Book Club participated in the event which also included reading assessments, free books, activities for children, and refreshments.

###