



INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSWRC APPLAUDS SACRAMENTO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS LITERACY CRISIS



Sacramento, CA | The Pacific Southwest Regional Council of the National Association of Public Housing Officials has recognized Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency for its supportive efforts to combat literacy among Sacramento school children.

In an electronic news release, PSWRC stated that, “SHRA does more than just provide low-income housing for families... they partner with other community groups to focus on other aspects of residents' lives, such as health, education and employment.”

On October 25, SHRA co-sponsored with local nonprofit organizations 916 Ink, Teach for America, and the Sacramento Public Library Foundation to present the first annual “Walk4Literacy” in Sacramento to increase awareness about the literacy crisis and the need to fund children's programs to increase reading and writing skills. SHRA staff and residents joined the 4-mile walk event which is part of a larger initiative to have all children in Sacramento reading at grade level at the end of third grade by 2020.

Currently, roughly 60% of the region's third grade children do not read at grade level. Research shows that 74% of students who are behind in their literacy skills by the 4th grade will never catch up. These students are more likely to drop out of high school, live in poverty as adults, and/or interface with the juvenile detention system. SHRA created the *3 By 8 is Great!* Reading Program which supports public housing families to read to their youngsters. A reading library was created and guest speakers are invited to speak with parents about the importance of reading with their children.



At the end of the walk, SHRA Executive Director La Shelle Dozier SHRA Commissioner Chair Michael Alcalay were presented with a plaque from Housing America in recognition of their work to provide housing and services to low-income residents in Sacramento County.

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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. SHRA has a FY 2014 budget of \$167.7 million and 225 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 11,800 rent assistance vouchers per month.