



For Immediate Release:
September 20, 2010

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RESIDENTS TO CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE BY DEDICATING “PEACE” ARTWORK ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

“Peace artwork” designed by children to be highlighted in addition to celebrating a national award for community service to be received by a resident youth at Villa Cesar Chavez

Oxnard, CA – Residents at the Villa Cesar Chavez Farmworker Family Apartments located at 5559 Salvador Street in Oxnard plan to celebrate the International Day of Peace by dedicating a fountain in their main courtyard on Tuesday, September 21 at 6 p.m. as part of International Peace Day. The fountain features “peace” artwork recently designed by youth living at the apartment community. General festivities will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) was established by a United Nations (U.N.) resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly (<http://internationaldayofpeace.org>). The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982. In 2002, the General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace. By creating the International Day of Peace, the U.N. devoted itself to worldwide peace and encouraged all of mankind to work in cooperation for this goal.

Since its inception, Peace Day has grown to include millions of people in all parts of the world, and each year events are organized to commemorate and celebrate this day. Events range in scale from private gatherings to public concerts and forums where hundreds of thousands of people participate. It provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date.

In addition to commemorating peace artwork at the community’s fountain on Tuesday, Victor Aguilar, a youth who lives at the Villa Cesar Chavez apartments in Oxnard, will be recognized for his community service at leadership. It was recently announced that Victor will be the recipient of a 2010 national NeighborWorks® Dorothy Richardson Resident Leadership Award which honors one resident volunteer in each of the eight NeighborWorks America’s districts across the U.S. each year.

The award acknowledges outstanding achievers in the field of affordable housing and community-based development. This award recognizes resident leaders whose energy, commitment and concern for their communities are vital to the success of the NeighborWorks system locally and nationally. Victor has shown tremendous leadership in his interaction with other residents in his immediate neighborhood and in the community at

large. Victor will formally be receiving the award at a ceremony in Washington D.C. during a training institute in December 6-10.

The Dorothy Richardson Award for Resident Leadership is an honor bestowed annually in recognition of outstanding contributions by dedicated community leaders. The awards are named in honor of Dorothy Richardson of Pittsburgh, a pioneer in the community-based development movement who was the driving force behind the establishment of the first Neighborhood Housing Services resident-led partnership, the forerunner of today's NeighborWorks network.

Victor is a resident of the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation's (CEDC) Villa Cesar Chavez Apartments, an affordable rental development for farmworkers in the City of Oxnard. Victor is interested in improving communication between adults and youth in his community, and through his efforts, has become a youth leader in his community. Victor's passion for helping other youth drove him to approach the Villa Cesar Chavez Resident Council about becoming a voting member and youth representative, making him the first-ever teen at a CEDC development to hold this title.

Priscila Cisneros, CEDC's Community Building Manager, says that Victor has grown a lot as a leader, "Victor is the kind of guy who is 'up' for anything. He wants to create opportunities for his family and for his community."

Press Note: The dedication ceremony is by invitation-only and is not open to the general public (due only to space restrictions). Persons from the media are welcome to join us to cover the event.

CEDC is a private non-profit affordable housing and community development corporation that provides comprehensive housing services, through a community building approach, in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and the Santa Maria area. Since its incorporation in 1981, CEDC has built more than 1,346 units of affordable for-sale and multi-family rental homes, manages 714 affordable rental units, and has helped more than 7,632 families into homeownership through education, counseling, and lending services. CEDC is a chartered member of NeighborWorks®, a national network of more than 230 community development and affordable housing organizations. This year marks CEDC's 29th year of operation.

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