



Visionary
Home
Builders
of CALIFORNIA

BUILDING Connections

WINTER
2019/20



The Future is in Their Hands

When you are looking to design and build a Teen Center - invite teens to give input on what a Teen Center should look and feel like! We did just that –and my goodness, they gave us fabulous ideas! The teenagers, ages 13-19 years-old from throughout the community participated in brainstorming ideas for the new Diamond Cover I Teen Center. Andrea Andrade helped lead conversations with the teens, along with VHB Community Managers Malinda Castenada, Gabriela Banda and LeAnn Steward. Special guest Dalon Littlejohn from the Podesto Teen Impact Center in Stockton added much-valued input and feedback on some of the terrific ideas! Then we let the teens plan and design! More than ten teenagers are now on the committee meeting every few weeks to plan the design and oversee the development of the Teen Center. And an added bonus – a portion of the grant received from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative will help fund the Center. Hopefully, by next quarter the project will become a reality!



Message from the CEO



Visionary Home Builders of California, Inc. is one of the local nonprofit organizations addressing housing in the Stockton community. Our agency has worked for over thirty years to build permanent housing for very low to moderate-income families and individuals. Government officials have officially recognized and declared that the State of California has a housing crisis.

Two thousand nineteen has been a year of much disparity in our community for many individuals, families, veterans, and farmworkers. Our vision and mission is to ensure that every child and adult have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing as well as educational opportunities. When you receive that phone call that a family's home has burned down and you are asked if you have a unit that they can move into, it is so difficult to reply, "Sorry, we are at one hundred percent capacity and have long waiting lists." When your employee tells you that their mother is homeless, has a Section 8 voucher and cannot find housing, you feel helpless when you know you are working diligently to develop additional housing units. We just cannot work fast enough. When you visit your storage unit one day and you see a father and daughter playing near their storage unit, you sense that they are living there. Although he has a job, he has not been able to find a place to live. It made me ask myself, "Why can't I build units fast enough?" These are just a few examples that I have been made aware of this year. They clearly validate the lack of

affordable housing and the rapid increase in homelessness.

We are asking our friends and community to help us in addressing this severe housing crisis. Please help us plan and develop housing that is so desperately needed for the working poor so that we can ease the pain of families who cannot afford housing or are unable to find a place to live.

Together let us make 2020 a better year for housing the working poor within our community. Stable housing is the foundation. Studies show that children in stable housing do better in school. Decent, affordable housing reduces stress, which leads to improvement in both physical and mental health.

Your donation in support of this important mission will provide the funding needed to make this effort a reality. Please know that all donations, in any amount, will make a difference.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol J. Ornelas". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carol J. Ornelas, CEO
Visionary Home Builders of California, Inc.

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OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to create and advocate for healthy, vibrant, and safe communities through the development of affordable housing and educational opportunities for families, seniors, and individuals of low and moderate income.

315 N. San Joaquin Street, Stockton CA 95202
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Upcoming Projects

GRAND VIEW VILLAGE

- 63 residential units – a mixture of one, two, and three bedrooms
- Over 10,000 square feet of ground floor space to house a grocery store
- 3,000 square foot Community Center and Head Start Program
- A reduction in lanes from four to three
- Installation of a new green median and street trees along Miner Avenue



Miner Avenue Elevation

The Grand View Village project, located at Miner and San Joaquin Streets, is a welcomed addition to the revitalization of downtown Stockton.

LIBERTY SQUARE

We are so honored to be building Liberty Square, located at North Hunter and Flora Streets in midtown Stockton.



(N) North Hunter Street Concept Elevation



(N) Flora Street Concept Elevation

- Three story community with 74 units of veteran and workforce housing ranging from studios to three bedroom units
- On-site supportive health services
- Head Start Preschool and three playgrounds
- Computer Lab/Community Center and Teen Center
- Solar energy and energy-efficient appliances
- New bike lanes, bus stop, lighting, and trees

OAK LEAF MEADOWS APARTMENTS

(Oakdale, California)

- 56 residential units – a mixture of two and three bedrooms
- Head Start Program
- Adult Education Services
- Energy-efficient appliances

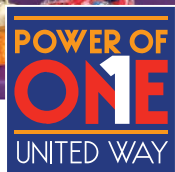




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Please consider a gift to continue the work of VHB in your community!



Andrea Andrade and Nancy Butler staff the VHB table at the United Way Power of One Employee Kick-Off Luncheon.



Children enjoying decorating their 'purple VHB hardhats' at The Record's Literacy & Book Fair – Family Day at the Park at Weber Point.



Along with UnidosUS, we hosted a community event at Diamond Cove II to educate business owners and residents within San Joaquin County on the CalSavers Program, which is funded through the State. CalSavers is designed to provide retirement plan options for workers who do not have access to an employer sponsored retirement savings plan. For further information on CalSavers, please go to CalSavers.com.



RECOGNITION

State Convention Award

We are so proud of our CEO/President Carol Ornelas, who received the prestigious California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Pioneer Empresaria Award at the 2019 CHCC State Convention. The award recognizes a woman who has initiated, developed, and led the way to innovative methods in business and her willingness to accept risk by seizing opportunities that continue to impact future generations, her industry, and community.