



San Antonio Housing Authority
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News Release

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SAHA CELEBRATES REOPENING OF RENOVATED ELDERLY AND DISABLED COMMUNITY

SAN ANTONIO – Today, after being closed for nearly a year and a half, the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) officially reopened one of its communities for the elderly and disabled, Blanco Apartments, located at 906 W. Huisache Avenue.

Elected officials, SAHA Commissioners, and both returning and new residents were among those that celebrated the grand reopening of the newly renovated apartment complex.

The four-story brick building, originally built in 1971, was closed in June 2008 for mold and asbestos remediation. Improvements to the 100-unit complex include new built-in wood storage cabinets, double insulated windows, new floors and sliding glass doors, replacement of HVAC components and renovations to the main lobby and community room.

“Nearly half of our clients are elderly or disabled and the renovations to this community are just one example of our commitment to improving the quality of life for those we serve,” said Lourdes Castro Ramirez, SAHA president and CEO.

Residents began moving into Blanco within the last week. As of today, 87 units have been rented and 34 former residents are returning, including SAHA Commissioner Stella Molina.

“The work that has been done is really wonderful. I’m excited to live closer to my son again and to meet up with friends who are returning as well,” said Commissioner Molina. “Blanco looks completely different – it’s an amazing transformation.”

The grand opening ceremony included remarks from Castro Ramirez, SAHA Board Chair Ramiro Cavazos, and representatives from the offices of Councilwoman Mary Alice Cisneros, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez, Representative Mike Villarreal and Senator Leticia Van de Putte. Attendees also wished Commissioner Molina, who turns 85 tomorrow, a happy birthday.

SAHA provides housing assistance to over 65,000 children, adults and senior citizens. SAHA owns and manages 6,177 public housing units at 70 properties and owns/or manages 6,399 affordable housing units at 42 properties. SAHA brings \$122 million in federal funding annually to San Antonio with \$79 million of that going directly to private landlords on behalf of approximately 12,000 Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) families.

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