



San Antonio Housing Authority
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SAHA RECEIVES NATIONAL HOUSING AWARDS

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) has won two national awards honoring superior assisted housing and community development programs by the National Association of Housing Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO).

During NAHRO's recent national conference, the organization presented SAHA with two Awards of Excellence: one for design for W.C. White, a SAHA property for elderly or disabled residents on San Antonio's East side, and one for the Alazan-Apache Courts Annual Back-to-School Festival. SAHA is one of only 23 programs from a pool of 263 to receive the awards.

"We're incredibly honored to be recognized nationally for our efforts to preserve and enhance the availability of affordable housing and improving the quality of life for children, families and the elderly," said Lourdes Castro Ramirez, SAHA president and CEO.

Originally built in 1977, W.C. White Apartments was stripped down to its concrete frame and rebuilt, reopening in August 2008. It now offers elderly and disabled residents a highly desirable, affordable living option on the East Side. W.C. White has 75 apartments complete with a large community room where residents can host Resident Council meetings, participate in programs and services provided by SAHA and its partners and simply spend time with neighbors, family and friends.

Alazan-Apache Courts, SAHA's largest public housing community, hosts an annual Back-to-School fest. This family-friendly, free event brings out about 600 people for a day of entertainment, food, services such as vaccinations and haircuts, and school supplies. Many community partners and service providers help SAHA make this annual, much-needed event a success.

"These creative programs show the passion and conviction NAHRO members have for creating better communities," said NAHRO President Akinola Popoola. "I commend these award winners and their outstanding accomplishments."

Alazan-Apache Courts was also recently honored by the Alliance of Resident Services in Affordable and Assisted Housing (NAR-SAAH) with the organization's Resident Council of the Year award. Residents were recognized for their youth and after school programs, youth baseball league, and their leadership and collaboration with the city council office and local community agencies.

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. In addition, SAHA administers rental vouchers to 12,900 San Antonio families through Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) program. SAHA is ranked seventh on the *Affordable Housing Finance Magazine's* 2010 list of Top 50 Housing Developers.

NAHRO is a 74-year-old membership organization of 3,200 housing and community development agencies and 19,500 professionals throughout the United States, whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income.

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