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NEW EASTSIDE COMMUNITY OFFERS ADDITIONAL HOUSING OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

First Phase of Eastside Development Completed

SAN ANTONIO (April 8, 2011) – Today, the community celebrated the grand opening of the San Antonio Housing Authority's (SAHA) newest mixed-income community, Sutton Oaks, located on the City's Eastside at 2818 N IH 35.

Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, City Councilwoman Ivy Taylor, Police Chief William McManus, SAHA Board Chairman Ramiro Cavazos, and Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs Executive Director Michael Gerber joined Franklin Development, other community leaders and residents to celebrate the grand opening of Sutton Oaks.

Sutton Oaks, on the site of the former Sutton Homes (built in 1952), is now a new vibrant community consisting of 194 one- to four-bedroom apartment homes and a clubhouse. The revitalization is the first phase of a multi-phase development that will ultimately result in a total of 400-500 new units.

The event kicked off with a ribbon cutting, followed by a resource fair for area residents. Representatives from the San Antonio Foodbank and the San Antonio Library were on hand to provide information to residents on literacy, healthcare, nutrition, education, and much more.

"In the last few weeks, I've been proud to stand with SAHA and its community partners to announce wonderful opportunities for the eastside of San Antonio and its residents," said Councilwoman Ivy Taylor. "In addition to this beautiful new development that's providing quality housing, partnerships are underway to transform the neighborhood and schools to help eastside families thrive."

"The grand opening of Sutton Oaks is truly a celebration for the entire community," said Ramiro Cavazos, Chairman of the SAHA Board of Commissioners. "For more than three years, residents, neighborhood leaders, elected officials, Franklin Development and SAHA worked together to secure federal funding and tax credits to make this revitalization a reality."

Total funding for Sutton Oaks Phase I is \$24,363,563, from sources including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City of San Antonio, the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), SAHA and tax credit equity and conventional lending from Bank of America.

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“Sutton Oaks is proof that the collaborative partnership with community stakeholders can provide a successful solution for offering quality, affordable living to all San Antonio residents,” said Ryan Wilson, Franklin Development Vice President. “This development brings growth and revitalization to the entire eastside community, including the military that work and live near Fort Sam Houston. The transformation of Sutton Oaks stands as a model for sustainable neighborhood growth.”

During the construction process, the old foundations were crushed and reused as base material in the new development. In addition, metal roofs, doors and windows were salvaged for recycling.

The developer for Sutton Oaks is Franklin Development and the architect is RPGA Design Group, Inc. Sutton Oaks has 49 public housing units, 137 affordable (tax credit) units and eight market rate units, and is already 100 percent leased.

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