

Orange County Chapter, Building Industry Association

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Buyers, Owners and Builders News

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Community

Connection

LENNAR GIVES O.C. FAMILIES IN NEED A 'HAND-UP'

By The Lennar Team

A homeless child with his mom and dad will soon be opening the doors of a new home at the Village of Hope, among the neighborhood's homes being built at Tustin Legacy on the former Tustin Marine Corps Air Base. Lennar, a premium homebuilder, is in the business of building homes that offer a quality place for families to raise their children. Lennar has nearly completed the homes at Tustin Legacy at Columbus Square, which will include single-family homes, as well as multifamily residences.

Set to open early next year, the Village of Hope demonstrates Lennar's involvement in providing a comfortable and secure quality of life for families. The Village of Hope, a project of HomeAidOC and the Orange County Rescue Mission,

is a nationally recognized facility that will be the first of its kind. It will offer comprehensive services to homeless families in Orange County.

While living there for up to two years, families will receive a "hand-up, not a handout," with financial and personal counseling, vocational training, medical and dental care, a dining facility, a fully licensed child-development center and parenting classes.

Orange County is known for its fine homes and booming economy where the majority of its citizens enjoy a life full of privileges, free from being concerned about basic needs. However, the current Orange County Community Indicators Report has published that throughout this year, there were 34,898 instances of homelessness in the county, and more than 27,000 of those involved children.

Homelessness is due to a number of conditions. But surprisingly, it involves dads and moms who have jobs — maybe even several jobs — but who are not able to earn a wage that will allow them to provide a home for their families.

Homeless families here have it especially tough. There are very few options for single-parent families, and virtually none for families with moms and dads. To get help, they have to split

up to be eligible for programs. Families who have withstood homelessness together become torn apart.

That's why the Village of Hope is so important. It is the first place in Orange County where homeless families and other families in need can transform their lives while staying together. The facility will provide more than a roof over their heads and warm meals to fill their stomachs. The faith-based residential program at Village of Hope will teach homeless families and adults to become self-sufficient, at no cost to them. Families and individuals who will be living at the Village of Hope will have the benefit of learning self-sufficiency, while gaining hope for the future and the future of their families.

Lennar has taken on the project financially and has shared builder-captain responsibilities with three other builders who are bringing builder guidance and resources to the construction project. In total, Lennar has given \$25,000 to the project. It was used to renovate 128 dorm rooms, which have been transformed into two-bedroom suites.

Ultimately, in part because of Lennar's contributions, 192 homeless men, women and children will move in

and begin to work on their vocations and a better life. Facilities will allow for 36 families and 88 single adults.

Lennar has made accommodations for children as well. While parents are working on their training, their young children will be learning in the fully licensed Child Development Center. Lennar recently completed the renovation of half the center, a contribution valued at more than \$150,000.

Through the Lennar Charitable Housing Foundation, the charitable arm of the corporation, the Village of Hope was selected as a recipient for ongoing support long after construction has been completed.

The Orange County Rescue Mission relies on the generosity of corporations like Lennar, as well as individual donors, for building projects and the operation of programs. They do not take out projects loans — they operate debt-free.

Although the Village of Hope is nearly completed, the project still needs financial contributions in order to be completed. To join Lennar and the others who believe in giving families a "hand-up," contact John Luker at the Orange County Rescue Mission at 714-247-4306.

