

SEPTEMBER 2017

# RIO VISTA APARTMENTS

RESIDENT SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT



## Center for Academic Achievement

- Housing on Merit (HOM) receives a generous donation of school supplies from the University of California San Diego (UCSD) Annual School Supply Drive.
- The After School Program continues to be well attended. During fall break, participants worked on art projects.
- Participants receive higher test scores in the subject areas of science and math after participating in HOM's Homework Help.

## Center for Health & Wellness

- HOM continues to partner with the San Ysidro Health Center (SYHC) to provide the Mobile Health Clinic to Rio Vista residents once a month.

## Center for Growth & Empowerment

- HOM continues to empower residents through community engagement with the on-site community garden.

## UCSD School Supply Distribution

The University of California San Diego (UCSD) selected HOM to be a recipient of their annual school supply drive. Every year, the university hosts the drive to benefit local students in need. Twenty-one schools participated in the drive, and HOM was the only non-profit organization selected to receive school supply donations. The School Supply Drive Coordinator, Ms. Susan Rappoport, stated that UCSD is proud to partner with HOM because of the "great need" for after-school and other academic enrichment programs in communities such as San Ysidro. HOM held a community celebration for Rio Vista residents at the Learning Center, during which the school supplies were distributed. Nine families attended the celebration and 13 young residents received new notebooks, pencils and pens, an art supply set, a UCSD t-shirt, and several other supplies. HOM thanks UCSD for their support of resident services at Rio Vista! We look forward to an ongoing partnership with the university for the betterment of our community.



## After School Program Update

The After School program enrollment and participation remains consistent. There are 21 participants enrolled at this time. The average daily attendance has been between nine and twelve young residents. Children in the South Bay Union School District had a two-week fall break in September, during which many participated in an arts-based group project focused on the work of Vincent Van Gogh. In addition, Learning Center Assistant Ingrid and a volunteer led a soccer clinic for the children.

Several program participants recently shared their report cards with Learning Assistant Ingrid, and she was very pleased to find grades improving. Ingrid reported that two participants, who were receiving low scores in math and science and consistently asked for help at HOM's Homework Help, are now excelling in these areas. HOM congratulates our residents for their academic achievements and hard work!





## Medical Mobile Clinic

The San Ysidro Health Center's Medical Mobile Clinic continues to provide our residents with on-site medical services. Nine residents, including six children, were seen for services in September. Many of Rio Vista's residents face barriers to quality and affordable healthcare, such as access to transportation. HOM thanks SYHC for connecting Rio Vista residents with monthly high quality services on site!

## Gardening Update

HOM thanks our community partner, Master Gardeners of San Diego County, for their continued support of resident services at Rio Vista. The community garden continues to foster camaraderie and a sense of pride among residents as they watch their garden thrive. Currently, After School program participants work on their assigned pumpkin patch plot twice a week and chart the growth and needs for each of the mounds in the patch. Many were surprised to learn that mounds must be 5-7 feet apart because pumpkins can grow quite large. The class anticipates five out of their seven pumpkins will be ready for harvest by the end of October! All residents are welcome to attend HOM's 1st Annual Harvest Festival in October, which will include presentations by young residents, arts and crafts, and prize giveaways.





## New Community Partner: Girls Who Code

Housing on Merit is very excited to partner with Girls Who Code, a national non-profit that invites girls in grades 6th-12th to explore coding in a fun and friendly environment! Girls Who Code's mission is to "Close the gender gap in tech, one girl at a time!"

HOM continues to support our young residents by providing STEM-based programming and opportunities that are otherwise limited to low-income students. Girls Who Code generously donated their curriculum materials so we could launch their program at Rio Vista. We are excited to provide the first Girls Who Code informational session to Rio Vista residents in October!

