

JULY 2017

RIO VISTA APARTMENTS

RESIDENT SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT



SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

It has been a busy month, filled with exciting Housing on Merit (HOM) resident services programs at Rio Vista Apartments. July resident services highlights include the growth of our English- as- a -Second- Language weekly class; fun educational activities as part of the summer youth program; a youth employment workshop for residents aged 16-24 years; pool safety presentation for Rio Vista families and their children; and a workshop that helps families sign up for the CalFresh program!

San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation

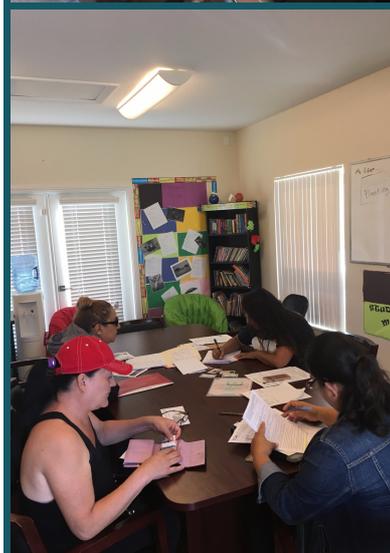
HOM partnered with the San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation (SDJF) to offer a pool safety presentation and a free swim lesson to residents, and 16 Rio Vista families participated. The USA Swimming Foundation, a philanthropic organization working to provide swim lessons to kids at all levels across the country, found that 64 percent of African American kids and 45 percent of Hispanic kids cannot swim. Additionally, approximately 10 people die from drowning every day during the summer in the U.S. HOM thanks SDJF for teaching our residents how to be safe and have fun in the water this summer!

Connect2Careers

HOM held an employment workshop in partnership with Connect2Careers, a San Diego Workforce Partnership program for youth and young adults. The workshop included registration to access the web-based portal to job openings at Connect2Careers community partner sites, resume writing assistance and more. HOM thanks Connect2Careers for their support of young residents at Rio Vista, and for their dedication to assisting youth with one-on-one job coaching.

Feeding San Diego

HOM held an informative workshop in partnership with Feeding San Diego for residents on CalFresh (formerly known as "food stamps"). Three families received assistance from Feeding San Diego staff to complete new applications for the program. According to a 2016 San Diego Hunger Coalition report, nearly 500,000 San Diegans (almost 1 in 6) suffer daily from food insecurity. Many senior citizens and families with children do not have access to enough food for an active, healthy life. HOM thanks our community partner, Feeding San Diego, for providing Rio Vista families the opportunity to be connected on-site with the CalFresh program.





Community Partner Spotlight: Living Coast Discovery Center

HOM is excited about our new partnership with the Living Coast Discovery Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing environmental education on coastal resource conservation, and instilling a respect for nature and wildlife in people of all ages. Living Coast's Discovery Lab is providing Rio Vista's After-School Program with a three-week series of science-based presentations with hands-on animal interactions! The Discovery Lab series topics include, "Something's Squidy," "Beaks and Feet," and "Crustacean Lab." The Discovery Lab is providing students lessons about coastal wetlands and the animals that inhabit the local San Diego Bay.

Through this partnership, HOM is able to bring high-quality STEM education to students at Rio Vista, all of whom attend local public schools with limited STEM programming. National studies show Latino students are not sufficiently exposed to STEM subjects at the K-12 levels. In addition, Latino students are currently the largest minority group in the public school system, but they score lower than national averages on math and science achievement tests and enroll in college STEM programs at significantly lower levels. A 2015 After School Alliance Report estimated that nationally 89 percent of students who participated in a STEM after school program reported an increase in self-confidence, 70 percent reported an increase in motivation to do well in school, and 80 percent reported an improved understanding of how science and technology work in everyday life.

HOM recognizes the importance of this student exposure to STEM as a critical part of addressing the achievement gap for low-income and minority students.



Resident Story: Angie Munoz

On a normal day, Angie Munoz gets up early to get her daughter ready for school and looks outside of her Rio Vista apartment window to admire the growing community garden. Angie describes herself as a "self-taught gardener," who started planting vegetables in the community garden two years ago after attending a HOM sponsored gardening class. "After I planted my first kale, I became hooked," stated Angie. She then began reading articles online about gardening and soon found herself immersed in learning about planting and food systems. "I was going through a bad time in my life two years ago," recalls Angie. "I lost my job as a store manager and the garden gave me a reason to get out of bed in the morning." Angie started caring for the garden ten hours a week and began to recognize how gardening supported her mental and physical health. Now Angie volunteers at a local non-profit organization, Turning The Hearts, working to create a new community garden!

HOM thanks our community partner, Master Gardeners of San Diego County, for their continued support of resident services at Rio Vista. Master Gardeners provided a gardening class to residents and assisted the students of the Learning Center in planting their very own pumpkin patch! Many students who had never worked with soil before learned about where food comes from and what it takes to produce.

