



Our Casas Resident Council Inc.

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Ground Breaking for Affordable Houses in West Side

Seeking Qualified Low/Moderate-Income Home Buyers

San Antonio (Friday, March 30, 2018) — As part of National Community Development Week, Our Casas Resident Council, Inc. has a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of three, affordable homes in the West Side for qualified homebuyers who are low- to moderate-income and want to realize the American Dream of owning a home. Our Casas is also preparing to build 13 more affordable houses in this target area. “Our Casas has begun to rebuild its community into a better place to live”, says Dario Chapa, executive director of Our Casas.

Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales, a champion of affordable housing and development of the West Side, will be joined by representatives of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), which is providing the majority of the construction financing, and the City of San Antonio HUD/HOME program that is also contributing to the construction financing. Community leaders and representatives from the Our Casas board and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) will also attend. The three-bedroom houses will sell for only about half of the average sales price of a home in San Antonio. The average sales price of a house in San Antonio is \$247,307—according to the San Antonio Board of Realtors.

The affordably priced, all-electric homes are approximately 1200 square feet with three bedrooms and two baths and universal design to meet ADA requirements. Our Casas is able to keep the costs of the houses at an affordable level with the assistance of Our SA and the Office of Urban Redevelopment through the San Antonio Affordable Housing, Inc. non-profit agency that offer reasonably-priced, vacant lots in targeted areas. Other factors that help affordability include the City of San Antonio and SAWS that provide waivers for some of the building and permit fees, the City’s HUD/Program, which provides partial construction funding, and LISC of San Antonio with the major, low interest construction financing and valuable technical assistance. Another major reason for affordability is that Our Casas is a non-profit agency.

The ceremony will be April 4 at 10 a.m. at 1822 Santiago (corner of S. Hamilton and Santiago). The West San Antonio Chamber of Commerce is hosting the ribbon cutting and assisting with media outreach.

Our Casas is a non-profit agency founded in 1990 to assist low and moderate-income families with their housing issues and needs. It has built 42 affordable homes during that time. As a Community Housing Development Organization with certified HUD counselors, Our Casas also provides home ownership counseling, pre-purchase counseling, credit counseling and repair, homebuyers’ education seminars, and mortgage loan pre-qualification services.
