CITY OF SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

News Release

San Jose Redevelopment Agency

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Contact:
Helen Duong, (408) 794-1089
San Jose Redevelopment Agency
helen.duong@sanjoseca.gov

Youth Shelter Relocates to New Site

Shelter will continue to serve as a safe house for homeless youths

***San José* ---** EHC Lifebuilders broke ground on the new "Sobrato House Youth Shelter" today that will provide transitional housing and social services for homeless youth in downtown San Jose.

The Sobrato House Youth Shelter also will offer affordable rental housing for City Year volunteers based in San José and who support a wide range of community programs and projects.

"The new building will help our young people, both those who need a hand to get back on their feet, and those who are contributing their time and talent to strengthen our community as volunteers," said Mayor Ron Gonzales. "It will be an excellent addition to our downtown neighborhood."

The new shelter is a model for "green building" development by restoring an existing historic house with modern materials and upgraded outer facade. The project developed in 2001 when the San Jose Redevelopment Agency purchased the property occupied by EHC LifeBuilders youth program located at 26-28 North Fifth Street to make way for the new City Hall.

"I am proud that the City & Redevelopment Agency was able to support EHC LifeBuilders improve its facility and provide City Year Corps volunteers housing," said Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez who represents downtown San Jose on the City Council. "Working together we will be able to provide our community service and homeless youths a safe environment full of hope and opportunities."

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As part of the relocation development agreement with EHC LifeBuilders, the SJRA assisted EHC LifeBuilders to relocate to a temporary location on North Fifth Street where it currently operates its youth program while construction of the permanent shelter on S. Third Street is completed in September 2006.

"The project is a result of the hard work and support of many people in the community," said EHC LifeBuilders President and CEO Barry Del Buono "Today's groundbreaking represents the culmination of that hard work and the beginning of a new and improved way to serve homeless youth in our community."

The estimated project costs are $10.5 million from EHC LifeBuilders public and private sources. San Jose Redevelopment Agency is providing $2.5 million and the San José Housing Department is investing $2,035,000 million.

Today, EHC LifeBuilders also announces a private gift of $1.25 million in grants and loans from John A. Sobrato for the project's construction. The new facility will be called "Sobrato House," in honor of Mr. Sobrato's support and commitment to the project.

For more information regarding EHC LifeBuilders, please call 408.539-2129 or visit **www.ehclifebuilders.org.**

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Together the City and the Redevelopment Agency facilitate and oversee comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City's Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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