



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2022

Contact: Ricky Choi
(626) 319-5050 / rchoi@sgvcog.org

PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

**San Gabriel Valley’s Newest Tiny Home Village
Offers New Path for Unhoused Families**
Expansion Brings Better Support for Baldwin Park Residents

Baldwin Park, CA – Community members and officials from the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT), San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) and the City of Baldwin Park gathered this morning to commemorate the grand opening of Serenity Homes, a new 16-unit family bridge housing project that will cater to the needs of families with children experiencing homelessness.

“It is truly remarkable to be opening a second tiny home village within a year,” said Baldwin Park Mayor Emmanuel J. Estrada. “Serenity Homes will serve as a model for how cities can expand homeless services and better address the unique needs of unhoused families. I would like to commend City staff and our project partners, the SGVRHT and SGVCOG, for their tremendous efforts and dedication to bringing this project to reality.”

“The opening of Serenity Homes represents an opportunity for new beginnings for unhoused families and is a common sense pathway to achieving permanent housing solutions in the San Gabriel Valley,” said Monrovia Mayor Becky Shevlin, President of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. “The SGVCOG is incredibly proud to be involved in these critical homeless housing projects in the region that are making a tremendous difference at the local level.”

Serenity Homes is the second tiny homes village in Baldwin Park following the successful opening of the 25-unit Esperanza Villa last November. The tiny home village is the first interim housing site in the San Gabriel Valley specifically for families. Located on city-owned property acquired earlier this year, the site consists of sixteen 144-square-foot Boss Cubez family modules, fully furnished with a curated selection of IKEA furniture and accessories. The furniture store generously donated nearly \$30,000 worth of furniture to the site. Each family module includes a full size bed, twin bunk bed, dresser, lamp, mirror, portable table, shelves and storage, shoe rack, and other amenities.

The project is intended to provide temporary bridge housing for about 90 days to six months before families are placed into permanent accommodations. Residents will be offered individual on-site services such as case management and health and mental health services, three meals a day, restroom, laundry, shower trailers, and an on-site computer room to facilitate homework and job training. The site operator, City Net, will provide staffing and security 24 hours a day.

During the ceremony, State Senator Susan Rubio (SD-22), who authored legislation to create the SGVRHT in 2019, presented a \$30 million check to the Trust in funding secured in the 2022-2023 state budget to continue the momentum of creating more affordable housing and tackling homelessness in the San Gabriel Valley. This is in addition to the \$20 million Senator Rubio secured in the 2021-2022 state budget to support the construction of affordable housing developments and homeless housing in the region.

“As a longtime resident and former member of the Baldwin Park City Council, I could not be more proud of the leadership our City has exemplified in tackling the issue of homelessness,” said Senator Susan Rubio. “Today’s grand opening is a testament to the creative and compassionate solutions we can come up with when cities band together and work collaboratively to address the homelessness crisis. This \$30 million will help the San Gabriel Valley accelerate and expand access to affordable housing that is critical to our region’s future.”

“We could not be more excited for this day,” said Claremont Mayor Jed Leano, Chair of the San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust. “Being able to celebrate another milestone with the opening of the San Gabriel Valley’s first bridge housing site dedicated to unhoused families on the same day as receiving this significant state funding of \$30 million only makes me even more hopeful for the future. Thanks to the leadership of Senator Rubio, this new funding will provide the Trust and cities in the San Gabriel Valley with the opportunity to find creative housing solutions, like Serenity Homes and Esperanza Villa, for our unhoused residents.”

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Baldwin Park is a nearly seven-square-mile suburban community of 72,000 residents in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley. As the hub of the San Gabriel Valley, Baldwin Park is known for its ease of access and mobility, young and diverse residents, and vibrant, growing business community. For more information, visit baldwinpark.com or follow Baldwin Park on Facebook (@BaldwinParkCAGov), Instagram (BaldwinPark_CAGov), and Twitter (BaldwinParkCA).

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) is a regional government planning agency that aims to maximize the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley. The SGVCOG operates as a joint powers authority that is consisted of 31 incorporated cities, unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts 1, 4, and 5, and three San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water Districts (San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District). The SGVCOG is the largest and most diverse sub-regional council of governments in Los Angeles County. It encompasses more than 374 square miles and has more than 2 million residents.

The San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust (SGVRHT) is a joint powers authority that allows communities within the jurisdiction of the SGVCOG to coordinate and fund affordable housing initiatives to address homelessness in the San Gabriel Valley region. A nine-member Board of Directors governs the SGVRHT, seven of whom are representatives from jurisdictions that are members of the SGVRHT and two of whom are experts in housing and homelessness. The members are appointed by the Governing Board of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments.