

MetLife Foundation



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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TWO BAY AREA NONPROFITS WIN 2009 METLIFE FOUNDATION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Special Focus on Healthy, Green Homes for Seniors

(COLUMBIA, Md., November 10, 2009) - Enterprise Community Partners Inc. (Enterprise) and MetLife Foundation today presented Lytton Gardens Senior Communities, owner of Lytton Gardens I in Palo Alto, Calif., and Mercy Housing California, owner of Mission Creek Senior Housing in San Francisco, with the 2009 MetLife Foundation Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing. The presentation took place during the annual meeting for the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) in Chicago. In all, four winners were recognized by Enterprise and MetLife Foundation, with each receiving a \$50,000 unrestricted grant to sustain and expand its work.

The MetLife Foundation Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing, presented since 1996, honors exemplary models in affordable housing. This year, the competition focused on best practices in the field of senior housing, with special consideration given to properties with green components.

“With the growth of the country’s older population, the need for affordable, well-maintained housing for seniors is more vital than ever,” said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. “We are pleased to join Enterprise in recognizing Lytton Gardens Senior Communities and Mercy Housing California, which are meeting this need through affordable, green housing that promotes seniors’ health and well-being and strengthens the overall community.”

“It is a pleasure to partner with MetLife Foundation for the 14th year on this competition, and to continually see such dynamic and innovative work coming from leaders in the community development field,” said Rich Gross, vice president and impact market leader – San Francisco, Enterprise Community Partners. “By recognizing healthy housing opportunities from peers such as Lytton Gardens Senior Communities and Mercy Housing California, we are helping to highlight some of the very best practices in the industry.”

Lytton Gardens I is currently home to 417 seniors with low incomes and provides 24-hour care for its residents. The nearly 35-year-old property recently underwent phased renovations that incorporated its innovative “Going Green Initiative,” a dynamic effort to improve energy efficiency and water conservation. The rehab allowed for extensive site improvements that

have effectively saved Lytton Gardens Senior Communities thousands of dollars in utility costs, and added a healthful benefit to the residents of the property. The renovations included

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drought tolerant landscaping, building materials made of recycled Timber Tek, installation of motion sensors to decrease electricity consumption, new low-flush toilets and a number of waste management programs.

Lytton Gardens I also has the honor of being the first assisted living program in a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) facility. In addition to its extensive array of services that sustain the needs of seniors age 55 to 90-plus, Lytton Gardens supports lifestyle choices for the active senior to those who are aging in place. In addition to other on-site services, the facility also provides a real-life training ground for physicians enrolled in the Stanford University Fellowship in Advanced Geriatrics.

“It is an honor to receive this award from Enterprise and the MetLife Foundation for our work with the elderly and for our efforts to make Lytton Gardens I more energy efficient,” said Gery Yearout, executive director, the Lytton Gardens Senior Communities. “Since we opened our doors in 1975, we’ve been home to more than 10,000 seniors in northern California and now those homes will provide a lightened impact on the environment as well as take care of the mind and body of its residents.”

Mission Creek Senior Community, owned and operated by Mercy Housing California, also received a 2009 MetLife Foundation Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing. A new building, Mission Creek is part of the overall Mission Bay North redevelopment project area and sits on an adaptive reuse of a brownfield. The seven-story development offers 139 affordable apartments for seniors, including those who are extremely frail, formerly homeless, living with HIV/AIDS and/or have other special needs. An on-site adult day health center offers meals, medical care and social activities for residents and the elderly community at large.

Located near extensive public transportation services, the building was designed with “greening goals” to minimize the depletion of natural resources during construction and increase energy efficiency and water conservation during the life span of the building. With such a detailed sustainability plan in place from the beginning, the property exceeded some of San Francisco’s most stringent green building codes. Environmental friendly features include extensive use of daylighting, reclaiming water for landscaping and public toilets and ensuring smart site planning and land use for the surrounding areas.

“It is with great pride that we accept this award from Enterprise and MetLife Foundation. Mission Creek is part of the overall Mercy Housing California continuum of care,” said Jane Graf, executive director, Mercy Housing California. “At Mission Creek we are able to meet the changing needs of San Francisco’s elderly citizens – those leaving institutionalized settings, the formerly homeless and those in need of full, assisted living care. It is our goal to allow seniors to age in place so we can reduce the need for them to be moved to a higher level of care as they grow older. And, at Mission Creek, they can continue living their lives in a green, healthy environment.”

The other 2009 winners of the MetLife Foundation Award for Excellence in Affordable Housing are REACH Community Development Corporation for Station Place Tower, in Portland, Ore., and Under One Roof, Inc. for The Marvin in Norwalk, Conn.

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Enterprise is a leading provider of the development capital and expertise it takes to create decent, affordable homes and rebuild communities. For more than 25 years, Enterprise has introduced neighborhood solutions through public-private partnerships with financial institutions, governments, community organizations and others that share our vision. Enterprise has raised and invested more than \$10 billion in equity, grants and loans to help build or preserve more than a quarter million affordable rental and for-sale homes to create vital communities. Enterprise is currently investing in communities at a rate of \$1 billion a year. Visit www.enterprisecommunity.org and www.enterprisecommunity.com to learn more about Enterprise's efforts to build communities and opportunity.

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 by MetLife to carry on its longstanding tradition of contributions and community involvement. Grants support education, health, civic and cultural programs. MetLife and MetLife Foundation have supported Enterprise's neighborhood revitalization activities with grants and loans of almost \$60 million. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.