East Leland Court – Mercy Housing California

555-2571 East Leland Road, Pittsburg, CA 94565, Contra Costa County

NEWLY DEVELOPED PROPERTY
Completion Date: May 2009
Financing Package: Redevelopment Agency of the City of Pittsburg, County of Contra Costa (HOME), Citibank Community Capital, U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation, Federal Home Loan Bank-Affordable Housing Program, State of California Housing & Community Development Department (Prop 48), California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, California Debt Allocation Committee.

Architect: Van Meter Williams Pollack
Contractor: James E. Roberts Obayashi Corporation
Type of Housing: Family

East Leland Court is a 63-unit development serving very low and extremely low-income families by offering three- and four-bedroom units at affordable, regulated rents. The property is an infill site located between two market-rate apartment complexes and across the street from Los Medanos Community College. The building incorporates numerous green features, including green design, materials, construction techniques and appliances. Landscaping includes a high-efficiency irrigation system, drought-tolerant plants and drought-resistant soil. The development also has bike racks and provides green household items to the residents. The building’s location—directly across from a community college—offers many opportunities both for the residents and the college. East Leland has a childcare center and tot lot, outdoor courtyards, parking, a laundry room, community room, computer room and property management offices. The staffing includes a property manager, maintenance person and a resident services coordinator. Additionally, First Baptist Head Start program is located at the property, serving both residents and the greater community. Offering this amenity was a high priority for the City of Pittsburg, since the community has historically lacked adequate affordable childcare.

The new generation of affordable housing is green—it’s environmentally sustainable and it features the highest-quality architecture and design. These developments are well-managed and maintained, providing valuable services and amenities for residents and the surrounding neighborhood and creating vibrant, healthy communities. The following profiles of recently built or rehabilitated properties provide just a few examples of how local non-profit developers are investing in communities. Take a look for yourself!
The Orchards on Foothill — Affordable Housing Associates

2719 Foothill Blvd, Oakland, Alameda, California 94601, Alameda County

NEWLY DEVELOPED PROPERTY
Completion Date: October 2008
Financing Package: 9% federal and state tax credits, Wells Fargo construction and permanent loans, City of Oakland Redevelopment Agency and HOME loans and grants from NCCLF and the FHLB Affordable Housing Program
Architect: Pyatok Architects
Contractor: J.H. Fitzmaurice, Inc.
Type of Housing: Senior

Located in Oakland’s Lower San Antonio District, close to the Fruitvale Transit Village, the Orchards on Foothill transformed a vacant industrial property on one of Oakland’s primary transit corridors into 65 apartments for very low-income seniors. The building is located near services and includes universal design features that are adaptable to residents with disabilities. The building’s layout includes a variety of common interior and outdoor spaces where both casual and organized social activities can take place. The spacious lobby and mailbox area allows residents to wait for transit or sit and enjoy the neighborhood, while the large outdoor terrace has seating areas and an array of fruit trees and native plants. Residents can also plant their own small gardens in the community vegetable beds. The Orchards includes many green features which enable it to operate efficiently and minimize its environmental impact, including photovoltaic solar panels that power the common area energy load.

Oxford Plaza — Resources for Community Development

2175 Kittredge Street, Berkeley, CA 94704, Alameda County

NEWLY DEVELOPED PROPERTY
Completion Date: February 2009
Financing Package: City of Berkeley Housing Trust, City of Berkeley Redevelopment, County of Alameda, CalHCD MHP, Tax Credit Investor (Enterprise), General Partner Equity, Foundation Grants, Enterprise Green Communities, Home Depot, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Surdna Foundation, Wells Fargo Permanent Loan, AHP / Far East Bank
Architect: WRT Soloman ETC - Dan Soloman
Contractor: Cahill Contractors, Inc.
Type of Housing: Family, Special Needs

Oxford Plaza is an exciting new development with 97 apartments for very low and low-income individuals and families. This dynamic mixed-use downtown complex includes the world-class David Brower Center, a green office space and hub for Bay Area environmental non-profits. Within walking distance of BART, UC Berkeley, public schools, the library, YMCA, the farmers’ market, retail stores, restaurants and a growing arts district, Oxford Plaza is an architecturally striking example of high-density, urban infill development. It pushes the envelope of affordable green building with its design, materials and energy-efficient systems, which conserve energy and resources and provide residents with energy savings and excellent indoor air quality. RCD provides resident services, including programs for children and youth as well as computer and job search training. An active community garden club serves Oxford residents and the surrounding neighborhood. The property also provides residents with a street-level garage and a reserved City CarShare space. Oxford Plaza won the 2009 Association of Bay Area Governments Growing Smarter Together Awards for Urban Design and also earned a GreenPoint Rating by Build It Green.
Saint Patrick’s Terrace – Satellite Housing

1212 Center Street, Oakland, CA 94607, Alameda County

RECENTLY REHABILITATED
Completion Date: October 2009
Financing Package: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, California Department of Housing and Community Development Multi-family Housing Program, City of Oakland, Citibank, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco Affordable Housing Program.

Architect: Gelfand Partners Architects
Contractor: Fine Line Construction; Financial Consultant: California Housing Partnership; Legal: Goldfarb & Lippman
Type of Housing: Senior

Saint Patrick’s Terrace provides affordable housing paired with comprehensive supportive service programs to 81 very low-income seniors in West Oakland. Satellite Housing developed St. Patrick’s in 1972 and has operated it successfully as a HUD Section 236 property for the past 38 years. In 2009, the property underwent green rehabilitation and refinancing, which modernized the building and helped revitalize the surrounding community. By reinvesting in the property, Satellite has worked to make sure St. Patrick’s remains a great place to live and a lasting pillar in its community. St. Patrick’s has been retrofitted with a second elevator to help improve building accessibility, energy-efficient windows and doors, additional community and administrative areas, photovoltaic solar panels and other green features and updated architectural and interior designs. Additionally, every residential unit in the property was completely renovated. Satellite hopes that the green rehab of St. Patrick’s will help spur further efforts throughout the housing industry to go green while preserving older HUD properties.

Walker Landing – Eden Housing, Inc.

1433 North Lane, Hayward, CA 94545, Alameda County

NEWLY DEVELOPED PROPERTY
Completion Date: June 2008
Financing Package: Funders included U.S. Bank, CDLAC, HCD MHP, HCD NSSS, FHLP of SF AHP, City of San Pablo Redevelopment Agency, Contra Costa County CDBG, Contra Costa County HOME, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Grant, National Equity Fund, Contra Costa County Housing Authority Project-Based Voucher Program, EBALDC Equity

Financial Consultant: Community Economics, Inc.
Architect: KTGY Group, Inc.
Legal: GCA Law Partners, Joyce Hiyama Glatt, Gubb and Barshay
Contractor: L&D Construction, Inc.
Type of Housing: Family and Special Needs

Walker Landing is an affordable housing development with 78 apartments serving low-income families in Hayward. Built as a result of the City of Hayward’s flexible inclusionary housing policy, Walker Landing stands as an innovative solution to providing needed affordable housing in the context of limited government resources. The development includes nine apartment buildings arranged around three courtyards with outdoor seating, play areas and barbeque/picnic areas. The community room and computer learning center offer resident activities and programs provided by Eden Housing’s resident services team. Designed and constructed to be more energy- and water-efficient than required by code, Walker Landing includes many green features. The building process minimized demolition and construction waste and created a tight, well-insulated building envelope, using optimal-value engineered wood framing, durable and healthy flooring and finishes, water-efficient and climate-appropriate landscaping, and natural shading and ventilation to keep units cool. Its inviting design respects the single-story context of the surrounding neighborhood. Situated on the site of an abandoned pickle plant, Walker Landing enhances and revitalizes the community with its scale, high-quality design and attractive landscaping.
**Jack London Gateway** — East Bay Asian Local Development Corp.

989 Brush Street, Oakland, CA 94607, Alameda County

**NEWLY DEVELOPED PROPERTY**

**Completion Date:** June 2009  
**Financing Package:** Silicon Valley Bank, Union Bank, City of Oakland, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board, Oakland Housing Authority, Bay Area LISC, Evelyn and Walter Haas Jr. Foundation

**Architect:** SGPA Architecture and Planning  
**Contractor:** Branagh, Inc.

**Type of Housing:** Senior

Jack London Gateway (JLG) Senior Housing provides 61 units of affordable senior housing as part of a mixed-use development that infills an underutilized neighborhood shopping center parking lot at Jack London Gateway Plaza. The JLG Senior Housing complex is a four-story building that provides one- and two-bedroom apartments and a 10,000 square-foot courtyard on a 0.9 acre lot. JLG Senior Housing scored the highest GreenPoint Rating ever for multifamily buildings (167 points), thanks to its green construction techniques and practices. The building’s green features include solar-powered common areas and hot water heating, an energy efficiency rating 30% above California Title 24 standards, low-VOC interior paints and interior flooring, energy-efficient appliances and water-saving toilets and landscaping. Serving residents with an average annual income of $11,000, JLG Senior Housing integrates critically-needed housing for the aging population with a shopping center that provides important basic goods and services. Developed with strong community participation, the development helps to address historic health disparities faced by the residents of West Oakland.

**Montego Place** — Satellite Housing

180 La Casa Via, Walnut Creek, CA 94598, Contra Costa County

**NEWLY DEVELOPED PROPERTY**

**Completion Date:** October 2009  
**Financing Package:** US Department of Housing and Urban Development, City of Walnut Creek, County of Contra Costa, The Mechanics Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco

**Architect:** Kodama Diseno Architects  
**Financial Consultant:** Community Economics  
**Contractor:** Segue Construction  
**Legal:** Gubb & Barshay

**Type of Housing:** Senior

Montego Place is Walnut Creek’s newest affordable senior housing community. Funded under HUD’s Section 202 program—in collaboration with the City of Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County, the Federal Home Loan Bank and the Mechanics Bank—the property provides 33 brand-new units of rent-subsidized, service-enriched housing for extremely low-income seniors. Montego Place is located adjacent to the John Muir Medical Center and next to Satellite’s existing Casa Montego housing development. Montego Place integrates seamlessly into a steeply-sloping site that was once considered undevelopable while preserving stunning views of Mt. Diablo and the surrounding landscape. On-site services, activities and free van transportation provide residents with the opportunity to age in place at Montego Place and thrive in their new home.
Non-profit affordable housing developers are building healthy, sustainable communities. Residents enjoy high-quality, professional property management, committed on-site staff and valuable services and amenities to meet the diverse needs of each community.

Asset management is also a critical aspect of developing and preserving affordable housing for the long term. Asset management ensures that affordable properties remain in excellent condition for the residents and the surrounding neighborhood, addressing not only the physical health of occupied buildings but also their financial health, with the goal of serving residents at affordable rents for decades to come. Non-profit developers continue to build and upgrade properties to a higher-quality standard than the private rental market in order to sustain their investment in the building— and its residents—today and for the future.
Non-Profit Developers & Service Providers

Below is a list of non-profit affordable housing developers and service providers working in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. These community-based organizations construct and manage affordable housing and provide services.

**Non-Profit Housing Developers**

**Abode Services/Allied Housing**
40849 Fremont Boulevard
Fremont, CA 94538
(510) 657-7409
www.abodeservices.org

**Alameda Development**
www.ahainc.org
(510) 649-8500
Berkeley, CA 94702
1250 Addison Street, Suite G

**Associates (AHA)**
www.cchnc.org
(510) 632-6712
Oakland, CA 94621
303 Hegenberger Road, Suite 201

**Northern California**
Community Development
www.bridgehousing.com
(510) 523-4460
Alameda, CA 94501
851 West Midway Avenue

**BRIDGE Housing**
345 Spear Street, Suite 700
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 989-1111
www.bridgehousing.com

**Christian Church Homes of Northern California**
303 Hegenberger Road, Suite 201
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 632-6712
www.cchnc.org

**Community Development Corporation of Oakland**
5836 Shattuck Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 428-9345
www.cdcoakland.org

**Mercy Housing California**
1360 Mission Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 355-7100
www.mercyhousing.org

**Mid-Peninsula Housing**
303 Vintage Park Drive, Suite 250
Foster City, CA 94404
(650) 356-2900
www.midpen-housing.org

**Resources for Community Development (RCD)**
2730 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 841-4410
www.rcdev.org

**Satellite Housing, Inc.**
6333 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 102
Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 923-1099
www.satellitehousing.org

**The Unity Council**
1900 Fruitvale Avenue, Suite 2A
Oakland, CA 94601
(510) 535-6900
www.unitycouncil.org

**East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC)**
310 Eighth Street, Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 287-5353
www.eahhousing.org

**East Oakland CDC**
1406 Seminary Avenue
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 569-8231
www.eahhousing.org

**East Bay Housing**
2168 East Francisco Blvd, Ste B
San Rafael, CA 94901
(415) 258-1800
www.eahhousing.org

**Habitat for Humanity East Bay**
2619 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 251-6304
www.habitateb.org

**Housing Consortium of the East Bay**
1736 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 832-1315
www.hceb.org

**Lutheran Social Services of Northern California**
988 Oak Grove Road
Concord, CA 94518
(925) 825-1060
www.lssnorcal.org

**Satellite Housing, Inc.**
6333 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 102
Oakland, CA 94609
(510) 923-1099
www.satellitehousing.org

**The Unity Council**
1900 Fruitvale Avenue, Suite 2A
Oakland, CA 94601
(510) 535-6900
www.unitycouncil.org

**Alameda Point Collaborative**
677 West Ranger Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
(510) 898-7800
www.apcollaborative.org

**Anka Behavioral Health, Inc.**
1850 Gateway Boulevard, Suite 900
Concord, CA 94520
(925) 825-4700
www.ankaabhi.org

**Bay Area Community Services (BACS)**
1814 Franklin Street, Fourth Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 613-0330
www.bayareacs.org

**Berkeley Food and Housing Project**
2140 Dwight Way
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 649-4968
www.bfhp.org

**Bonita House, Inc.**
3122 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705
(510) 548-7878
www.ncf.org

**Building Futures with Women and Children**
1395 Bancroft Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577
(510) 357-0205
www.buildingfutures.org

**Building Opportunities for Self Sufficiency (BOSS)**
2065 Kittredge Street, Suite E
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 649-1930
www.boss4.com

**First Place for Youth**
519 17th Street, Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94612
(510) 272-0979
www.firstplaceforouth.org

**Rubicon Programs**
2500 Bissell Avenue
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 235-1516
www.rubiconprograms.org

**SHELTER, Inc.**
1815 Arnold Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 355-0698
www.shelterincscc.org

**Volunteers of America Bay Area**
1601 Harbor Bay Parkway, Suite 150
Alameda, CA 94502
(510) 473-0500
www.voaba.org
Meet the families and individuals who live in affordable homes developed by East Bay non-profit organizations. They reflect the vibrant, diverse and inclusive communities where they live. These inspiring people share their stories about how affordable housing has benefited their lives and strengthened their families and communities—and how they are giving back.

**Asia Barrow**  
Mi Casa, Concord — Transitional & Supported Housing for Transition Age Youth by Lutheran Social Services

Unfortunate events early in Asia’s life led her to spend six years in foster care, moving from place to place for most of her teen years. When she turned 19, Asia emancipated from the foster care system. However, she immediately found herself with no option but to move temporarily into a friend’s place where a constant stream of people came in and out of the two-bedroom apartment. Living in a house full of activity, people and noise, Asia was unable to take the steps needed to get her life on track.

With the help of her Independent Living Skills Program (ILSP) social worker, Asia applied for Lutheran Social Services’ Mi Casa Transitional Housing Program for Emancipated Youth in Concord and was accepted in 2009. This two-year program provides Asia and five other emancipated youth with on-site social workers who guide them towards becoming self-sufficient adults. Providing both the independence Asia needs to feel like an adult and the structure she needs to get on a positive path, the program at Mi Casa has helped Asia turn her life around.

Asia has found a job and has also recently started attending classes at Diablo Valley College. Asia is taking a Career Exploration class which is introducing her to different possibilities and helping her preparing herself for the future. Best of all, she has a community of friends at Mi Casa with whom to experience this new journey. Now, armed with dreams of attending college at UC Berkeley, Asia says, “The doors for my future are now open. They worked with me to guide me onto the right path and have made it possible for me to succeed.”

**Azizullah Hadaf**  
Avelina Village, Fremont — Senior Housing by Mid-Peninsula Housing

Mr. Azizullah Hadaf has lived decades of his life on the stage, sharing his charisma and wonder at the depth of human emotion with others. Born in Afghanistan, Mr. Hadaf’s acting career began when he was recruited by a director on a seemingly normal day in his 21st year. From that day on, Azizullah spent years filming over 30 movies and performing in numerous plays—a career that made him one of Afghanistan’s most beloved actors.

Azizullah’s time in his native country was cut short when an Afghan rebel group threatened him after the opening of a play (directed by Mr. Hadaf) in which one of the actresses’ ears was not covered. His life in danger, Azizullah fled to Moscow, where he lived for five years, and then to Uzbekistan, all the while continuing to act. Finally in 1997 he was sponsored by an Afghan acting company and allowed to immigrate to the United States, a blessing that allowed Azizullah to finally be close to the rest of his family.

After spending years living in his brother’s living room, Azizullah was told that he had won a lottery for an apartment in Mid Peninsula Housing Coalition’s Avelina Village in Fremont. Now, Mr. Hadaf enjoys the privacy of his own space—a space that is quiet, clean and safe. His friends tell him he “lives like a millionaire” with a beautiful home that overlooks the green hills of Fremont. Retired now, Mr. Hadaf remains a bright and engaging spirit who spends his time mentoring young people who want to act. He lives a peaceful life and says, “Of all the places in this world I have traveled to and live, I finally feel rested and at home.”
At 101 years old (and nearing 102), Bertha Owens has seen her share of life's challenges. Through it all, she has remained undaunted and continues to embody her nickname “Belle.”

Belle spent the majority of her life working in the fashion industry and was the first African-American to be hired by fashion legend Neiman Marcus. She retired to the Bay Area and lived with her sister in the second story of a house. After an unfortunate accident on their steps, her sister was injured and eventually passed away. Just months later, Belle lost her son and was subsequently diagnosed with cancer. After a miraculous recovery, Belle was left to deal with the suffering of losing two of those closest to her. As Belle says, "I didn’t know what I was doing or where I was going. I was so confused and I felt so alone."

Needing a new place to live, Belle wanted to make sure she would feel safe and at home. With the help of friends, she moved into Satellite Housing’s Helios Corner Senior Housing in Berkeley when it first opened. Now, Belle overflows with joy as she talks about the helpful staff, the kind neighbors and the beautiful accommodations which she now calls home. Like a family, the staff and residents gathered to celebrate Belle’s 100th birthday together, filling the day with laughter. Belle says, “Every day I feel better and better about living here. I need people who are happy around me and this place provides that.” Truly a beautiful spirit who loves people, Belle is ever ready with a smile and her willingness to share the joy of a good home with those around her.
**Tina McClain**  McKinney Linkages, Fremont – Supported Jobs/Housing Program by Abode Services

Before the Colbert family’s luck turned and they received the last three-bedroom apartment available at EAH Housing’s Camellia Place in Dublin, they lived with their three children in a small apartment in a dangerous neighborhood. Owned by a slumlord, their apartment was overrun with mold, leading to multiple bouts of pneumonia. Alongside health risks, the surrounding neighborhood was high in crime and the family frequently heard gunshots—confining the Colberts to the tight quarters of their two-bedroom apartment.

When Carlton and Kathy heard about the opening at Camellia Place in 2007, they jumped on the opportunity. With easy access to public transportation, good schools and a secure neighborhood, this new home has allowed the Colberts to start a new chapter in their family’s life.

Once unable to have family dinners due to lack of space, the Colbert family now shares dinnertime together—a new tradition reflecting their renewed sense of family and community. Serene, 13, and Jonathan, 12, can walk in their neighborhood without fear. Jonathan, the most outgoing of the three children, has many friends in the complex, all of whom enjoy the playground located in Camellia Place’s courtyard. Kathy, a full-time mother, has neighbors who help her with her youngest, Jeremiah—an autistic three-year-old who needs specialized care. Carlton’s business has also exponentially expanded since the move. As Kathy says, “Everything in our lives has fallen into place after moving. Before, I had a place that was affordable but we lived under horrible circumstances. Now, I first and foremost have a wonderful home but it’s also a place I can afford.”

**Kathy and Carlton Colbert**  Camellia Place, Dublin – Family Housing by EAH Housing

Tina McClain and her three children—Leahnideas, 15; Timothy, 13; and Krystal, 10—were separated due to difficult circumstances. They first became homeless after their mobile home caught on fire. Subsequently, they were evicted from a two-bedroom apartment after a cosigner backed out of the lease and left them trapped with an apartment they couldn’t afford.

With her credit tarnished, Tina was unable to find an affordable home and resorted to moving her family from shelter to shelter. In 2004, Tina’s children were taken away and put under the care of relatives. It was then that Tina realized she needed to get on the path towards stability if her family was ever to be reunified. Through Abode Services’ McKinney Linkages Program, Tina worked diligently on her recovery and began working towards a clinical medical assistant degree. The final step to reunification was to obtain stable housing, which the program helped her find in July of 2008.

Reunited, the McClain family is thriving in a two-bedroom apartment in Union City. With good schools nearby and a safe neighborhood to grow up in, Leahnideas, Timothy and Krystal are happy to be back at home with their mom. Tina herself feels renewed hope and confidence. She says, “I never thought I was smart enough to get a degree but having an affordable home allowed me to go to school and discover I could do it. I can raise my family and take steps towards a better future for all of us.” Now, Tina works with the Alameda County Social Services Agency’s Parent Leadership Team. She provides expertise to social service agencies as a mom who has successfully reunified her family, and she mentors parents who are in the process of reunification. Tina says, “I want to give back what was freely given to me.”

“Everything in our lives has fallen into place after moving. Before, I had a place that was affordable but we lived under horrible circumstances. Now, I first and foremost have a wonderful home but it’s also a place I can afford.”

“I never thought I was smart enough to get a degree but having an affordable home allowed me to go to school and discover I could do it. I can raise my family and take steps towards a better future for all of us.”

www.ebho.org | Affordable Housing: Healthy Families, Sustainable Communities
In 1998, Shi Rui Shen immigrated to the United States from China without her husband to help care for her daughter’s newborn son. Acting as a caretaker during the day and working in a restaurant at night, Shi Rui labored strenuously to survive. Following years of separation, Shi Rui’s husband, Qi Kuan Chen, was finally allowed to join his wife in the United States in 2005.

Prior to moving into Lincoln Oaks, David was living in a one-bedroom apartment with his mom and brother. With very little room for the three of them, there was certainly no room for David to learn to live as an independent adult. Now, at 25, David is living on his own for the first time and has formed tight-knit relationships with fellow Lincoln Oaks residents—and he has uncovered his love for art.

It was the management at Lincoln Oaks who first noticed David’s artwork in a corner of his room. The discovery led the manager to connect David to Creative Growth Art Center in Oakland—an art center that serves adult artists with developmental, mental and physical disabilities. Creative Growth has taught David an array of art skills including cooking, ceramics, woodwork, sewing and painting. “Art gets me moving and going and thinking and I found it through the help of this place. Now, not only do I have a place where I get to be on my own, but I also have the chance to get out into the world and be active in it.” Before, on any given afternoon David could be found at home watching TV by himself. He can now be found happily creating art pieces that frequently headline Creative Growths’ art shows, and he’s fast becoming a renowned artist.

In 1998, Shi Rui Shen immigrated to the United States from China without her husband to help care for her daughter’s newborn son. Acting as a caretaker during the day and working in a restaurant at night, Shi Rui labored strenuously to survive. Following years of separation, Shi Rui’s husband, Qi Kuan Chen, was finally allowed to join his wife in the United States in 2005.

The reunited couple moved into a house shared by many other people, which made it impossible to have any sense of personal space. Unable to stand the overcrowded situation, they moved into a small studio. They worked multiple jobs, but were still barely able to afford rent month to month. Shi Rui and Qi Kuan were overjoyed when, in 2009, they were told they had been chosen to live at East Bay Asian Local

Shi Rui Shen & Qi Kuan Chen Jack London Gateway, Oakland — Senior Housing by EBALDC

Shi Rui and Qi Kuan have found more than just a safe space to call home; they have also found purpose and community.

David Albertsen was one of the first tenants to move into HCEB and Satellite Housing’s Lincoln Oaks apartments in Fremont when it opened in 2006. Containing 11 units of independent living apartments for people with disabilities, Lincoln Oaks has transformed David’s life, setting it on a path of independence and self-discovery.

Eager to spread the joy they now feel, Shi Rui and Qi Kuan say that “helping others is our own happiness.” They organize weekly singing sessions for their fellow residents, many of whom are immigrants who suffer from loneliness and depression. The couple hopes to uplift others’ spirits through song, thus allowing their physical health to improve as well. At Jack London Gateway, Shi Rui and Qi Kuan have found more than just a safe space to call home; they have also found purpose and community.

David Albertsen Lincoln Oaks Apartments, Fremont – Supportive Housing by Housing Consortium of the East Bay

“Art gets me moving and going and thinking and I found it through the help of this place. Now, not only do I have a place where I get to be on my own, but I also have the chance to get out into the world and be active in it.”