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NEWS RELEASE/MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release
Monday, December 13, 2010

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Friday, December 17, 2010 – 9 to 11 am
Oakland Housing Authority Service Center, 1180 25th Avenue, Oakland

**HOLIDAY FOOD AND GIFT BASKETS --- OAKLAND HOUSING AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES
AND POLICE OFFICERS PACK GIFT BASKETS
THEY HAVE FUNDED FOR OHA'S RESIDENTS IN NEED
Staff inspired to make holidays bright for those residents in need**

(Oakland, CA) -- Oakland Housing Authority employees and police office from Oakland Housing Authority will roll up their sleeves to fill gift bags with the equivalent of a full holiday meal, so that those residents of the Oakland Housing Authority who are in need may enjoy a dinner provided by those that work in housing services year round. The gift baskets will be delivered by OHA employees during the next week.

"We have secured turkeys, potatoes, vegetables and desserts, for the holiday bags," said Sean Heron, Director of Family and Community Partnership Department. "Having a full course traditional meal, especially when one is of limited means, can sometimes be the greatest gift."

"Our donors include the staff of the OHA and its police officers who have provided food or cash to help us fill the bags," OHA Police Department Chief Carel Duplessis said. "They are the ones who see our families struggle during this time of the year, when utility bills are higher and budgets are stretched extra thin."

Baskets will be given to families who have requested assistance at various Oakland Housing Authority locations throughout Oakland.

Long recognized as one of the leading housing authorities in the nation, the Oakland Housing Authority continues to be an innovator in the field of public housing. Currently, OHA provides housing for approximately 10 percent of Oakland's families, operating 1,606 public housing units and it manages, on behalf of its nonprofit affiliate, 1,554 project based Section 8 scattered site units. Presently, 13,282 Oakland families, elderly and disabled may rent with Section 8 vouchers. The average annual income of OHA families is about \$15,000.

For further information visit the OHA website at www.oaha.org or call 510-874-1512.