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## **OHA RECOGNIZES WORLD AIDS DAY; ANNOUNCES AVAILABILITY OF PRE-APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING**

### **Community will offer support services to residents living with HIV/AIDS**

(Oakland, CA) – As World AIDS Day raises awareness about the disease, the Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) has announced that it is taking a meaningful step to help those living with HIV/AIDS. Pre-applications are available for 19 special needs housing units in the second phase of Tassafaronga Village that will serve at-risk families with at least one adult member living with HIV/AIDS.

Tassafaronga Village Phase II is being built on the site of an old pasta factory and is the Authority's first HIV/AIDS housing community. Expected to open in April, the newly constructed apartment building is designed to meet the needs of families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness with at least one adult household member living with HIV/AIDS. The development includes 19 affordable studio and two-bedroom apartments.

“As we observe World AIDS Day, we have to not only dispel myths, remember loved ones and raise awareness of the disease, but we must continue supporting those who are living with its effects,” OHA Executive Director Jon Gresley said. “Research shows that housing improves the health of people living with HIV/AIDS. Tassafaronga Village is not simply four walls and a roof. We are partnering with AIDS Project of the East Bay to give residents the support needed to keep themselves and their families healthy.”

Residents living with HIV/AIDS will have access to supportive services and an on-site primary care clinic. Everyone living at Tassafaronga Village can obtain career counseling and participate in educational classes at the property's Family Resource Center. Affordable rents are income restricted in accordance with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program, the Section 8 Project-based Voucher program and other regulatory agreements. Of the 19 units, two are

designed specifically for the mobility, sight and hearing impaired. A 20<sup>th</sup> unit will be occupied by an on-site manager.

The project is being developed by OHA with funding from the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development Multifamily Housing Program – Supportive Housing Program and a Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS loan that was awarded by the Alameda County Housing and Community Development Department.

To apply, submit a separate pre-application directly to the development's property management company, the John Stewart Company. Placement on the Tassafaronga Village site-based waiting list will be determined by a computer-generated lottery process. Pre-applications are available at Monday-Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the offices of AIDS Project of the East Bay (APEB), 1320 Webster Street, in downtown Oakland. The offices are closed for lunch from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Pre-applications are also available by mail for a limited time by calling call (510) 649-5767. Applications for Phase II are available through Jan. 12.

Oakland Housing Authority recently celebrated its 70th Anniversary of providing quality, affordable housing to Oakland's residents. It has revitalized neighborhoods, offered life enrichment services to its residents and has contributed to the local economy. Presently, 11,142 of Oakland families, elderly and disabled rent with Section 8 vouchers, which is a public/private partnership allowing clients choice in the private rental market. OHA provides housing for approximately 10 percent of Oakland's families, with 3,221 public housing units in its stock. The average income of OHA families is about \$15,000.