

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**SAN DIEGO, March 6, 2023**



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**Links:**

- [High-resolution photos of Father Joe's Villages](#)
- [Photos and video of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa](#)

**Father Joe's Villages celebrates Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa's 1-Year Anniversary, 100s Now in Affordable Housing**

- *Hundreds of people, including 74 veterans, in apartment homes*
- *Affordable housing community in downtown San Diego demonstrates power of local, state and national partnerships*
- *Future projects already planned*

**WHAT**

In just one year, hundreds of people who experienced homelessness or were at risk of homelessness now have a home in an innovative affordable housing community in downtown San Diego.

The vision of [Father Joe's Villages](#), San Diego's largest homeless services provider, Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa offers over 407 homes, 80 of which are earmarked for veterans. The housing community is part of the organization's vision to bring more affordable homes to the San Diego region, one of the most expensive places in the United States to live.

In its first year, Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa has enabled hundreds of people to leave homelessness, including 40 families. As needed, residents have access to on-site services and case management to help them prosper.

Funded through a mosaic of private and public funds, the housing community, which was designed by famed architect Joseph Wong, co-developed with Chelsea Investment Partners, and built by Level 10 Construction, is on track to generate enough rental revenue to cover all of its expenses, proving that affordable housing communities can be self-sustaining over the course of their lifetimes.

**WHY**

In 2022, the average home in San Diego retailed for \$750,000 while the average apartment rented for more than \$2,600 a month. Meanwhile, homelessness is on the rise. According to the last [Regional Task Force on Homelessness Point-in-Time Count report](#), 8,427 people experienced homelessness in our region, roughly half of whom were unsheltered.

Short-term shelters are not enough to meet the region's needs. Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa provides the very necessary long term vision: affordable homes that provide supportive services so that people have the tools they need.

Those at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa have a furnished apartment, as well as access to comprehensive, life-changing services including integrated behavioral, dental and medical healthcare, medication and healthcare management, substance use disorder services, mental healthcare and therapeutic childcare.

#### **QUOTE**

"As we look back on what has been a remarkable year, hundreds of people now have stability and, most importantly, hope. We have many to thank for bringing the vision of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa to life. First and foremost, I give God the glory. The dedication of our staff, partners and donors made this all possible," **said Deacon Jim Vargas, President and CEO of Father Joe's Villages.** "Though we still have a long way to go to meet our region's needs for affordable housing, we have even more communities planned over the coming years, bringing us even closer to a future where no one in our region is forced to live without a home."

"My beloved late wife, Barbara and I were blessed to work alongside Mother Teresa," **said donor Terry Caster.** "When I saw the inhumane predicament many of our neighbors face on the streets, there was no question that the Caster Family would be involved in solutions. The solution in this case is more homes. In this way, I feel we are carrying on Mother Teresa's holy work on behalf of those in need, right here in her namesake community of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa."

"After 40 years, I finally have a secure place to lay my head at night," **said Albert, a resident of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Villa.** "I truly believe that my mom is looking out for me."

#### **WHAT'S NEXT**

Father Joe's Villages plans to launch additional communities as part of their Turning the Key initiative, which seeks to add over 2,000 units of affordable housing across the San Diego region.

Starting in 2024, Father Joe's Villages will break ground on two new communities, names to be released later this year.

#### **ABOUT SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA VILLA:**

- 14-story, 407-unit affordable housing community (291,133 sq. ft.)
- Located in East Village at [1 14th Street, San Diego, CA 92101](#)
- Occupancy for more than 500 residents
- Broke ground on Jan. 21, 2020
- Completed on Jan. 13, 2022
- Grand opening on Feb. 10, 2022
- LEED Gold certified and powered in part by solar panels

- Amenities include:
  - Fitness room
  - Community rooms
  - Management offices and on-site wraparound services
  - Community courtyard & gardens
  - Children's play area
  - Dog run areas
- Architect: Joseph Wong Design Associates
- Contractor: Level 10 Construction
- Developers:
  - Father Joe's Villages
  - Chelsea Investment Corporation

**FUNDED IN PART BY:**

- Terrence and Barbara Caster and family
- Raymond James Financial
- Citibank
- The County of San Diego
- The San Diego Housing Commission
- The State of California
- U.S. Bank
- Union Bank

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND CONTACT:**

- **Organization:** Father Joe's Villages
- **Interviews available:** Contact Byron Kimball, [byron@gomixte.com](mailto:byron@gomixte.com) or 619-732-0789 x297
- **Link to use in your story:**
  - [my.neighbor.org/](https://my.neighbor.org/)

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**About Father Joe's Villages**

As San Diego's largest homeless services provider, Father Joe's Villages ensures that each person can rediscover hope and leave homelessness behind. To address the complex needs of people who are homeless, the organization provides housing for as many as 3000 people each night, along with health care, substance use disorder treatment, job training, therapeutic childcare and more. This mission is made possible only through the efforts of compassionate staff, [volunteer work](#), [car donations](#), and generous public and private [charitable contributions](#). For more information, please visit: <https://my.neighbor.org/>.