



**DOORKNOCKER AWARDS
HONORABLE MENTION
CITY OF FRESNO, CA**

AWARD CATEGORY: Reaching Underserved Populations

PARTICIPATING JURISDICTION: City of Fresno, CA

PROJECT/PROGRAM NAME: Casas San Miguel

HUD REGION/FIELD OFFICE: Region IX; San Francisco Field Office

HOME UNITS/TOTAL UNITS: 32 HOME units / 32 total units

HOME FUNDS/TOTAL FUNDS: \$250,000 HOME funds / \$4,271,670 total funds

PARTNERS:

- National Farm Worker's Service Center
- California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
- California Endowment
- The Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
- The County of Fresno
- Chevron Corporation

FUNDING SOURCES:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| • HOME | \$ 250,000 |
| • City of Fresno | \$ 332,000 |
| • California HDC | \$1,190,000 |
| • County of Fresno | \$ 500,000 |
| • Rural Community Assistance Corp. | \$1,500,000 |
| • California Endowment | \$ 499,670 |

BRIEF NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

This project demonstrates how collaboration between project partners and the neighborhood can overcome barriers and help preserve a community. Mixteco farm worker families, who were living in substandard conditions adjacent to a Superfund site slated for remediation, had to be relocated. Most of the families came from the small town of San Miguel Cuevas in the Mexican state of Oaxaca and wanted to stay

together. Over the years the families lived as a tight-knit community. They wanted to maintain this quality wherever they were moved. The families requested that they all be housed in a centralized area.

The project partners realized that trying to grant the families' request to stay together would be difficult. The partners had to find a site large enough to build permanent housing for all the families and still ensure that the community had access to needed services. After many meetings and site visits, the City of Fresno and its partners decided to construct the units on a city-owned site at no cost to the families. This city-owned site would accommodate all the families allowing the community to remain together. Another major obstacle was language. Most of the families spoke no English or Spanish, only an Aztec dialect called Mixteco. The housing coalition wanted to ensure that all information was related in English, Spanish, and Mixteco, so translators had to be found and present at all community meetings.

With public and private funds Fresno was able to build 32 mortgage-free single-family homes for these families. The new homeowners pay only taxes, homeowner's insurance coverage and homeowner's association fees. The project partners overcame the logistics of finding a site large enough to accommodate all the families as well as language barriers to provide safe affordable housing for these farm worker families.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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