

October 16, 2009

HIF Seeks Support from SILVAR Members



HIF Executive Director, Debbie Wade and HIF Development Director, Meta Ware thank Dale Anne Collings (right), who presented them with a \$600 donation from the Coldwell Banker office in Cupertino.

Housing Industry Foundation Executive Director, Debbie Wade and Development Director, Meta Ware updated SILVAR members on the Foundation's mission and purpose at yesterday's Cupertino/Sunnyvale District tour meeting.

For many years, HIF has been the recipient of proceeds from SILVAR's Home for the Holidays Halloween party, SILVAR's largest charitable event of the year. HIF is a non-profit charity which helps individuals and families in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties either remain in, or return to stable housing. The Foundation has helped over 10,000 households overcome a housing crisis through one-time emergency grants for housing expenses and by rehabilitating housing units for the working poor and other special needs populations.

HIF is supported by apartment owners, builders, REALTORS®, mortgage bankers, accountants, attorneys, insurance companies and other related businesses. Administrative costs are shouldered by HIF's board of directors

and their companies, so the donations go directly to families in need.

Emergency Housing Grants are at the core of HIF's homeless prevention program. These grants assist individuals or families with rent, mortgage, utilities, security deposits and certain repairs on a one-time emergency basis.

"Sometimes individuals or families are confronted with a crisis. Our goal is to help them so they don't lose their housing," explained Wade. "With the little help we provide, we hope to get them through their crisis so they can learn to live within their income, take the necessary steps to raise their income and learn to use good judgment so they can continue to remain in or find more permanent housing."

Wade said HIF helps about 25 households each month, providing \$1,000 one-time emergency assistance, which makes a big difference in their lives. She said unfortunately, the HIF Emergency Assistance Fund often runs out by the middle of the month and she has had to turn away families seeking help.

Ware explained HIF is a half a million dollar organization, but the Foundation's goal is to raise \$1 million by 2011, so it can help more households. For more information about HIF, Ware referred SILVAR members to handouts and the HIF Web site, which was recently improved and re-launched.

Ware also invited SILVAR REALTORS® and affiliates to be members of HIF's Volunteer Investment Program (VIP), which was launched "to help us not say no to families in need each month." Members of VIP have the opportunity to help others by providing a tax-deductible donation to those in need of emergency assistance. Each month, after the Emergency Housing Fund allotment has been reached, HIF will call upon a VIP member to fund the next approved application with a donation of no more than \$1,000. VIP members will only be called upon once a year unless they request a more frequent rotation.

Ware assured SILVAR members that families seeking the \$1,000 one-time emergency assistance are screened diligently. "We make certain money is going out for the right reasons," Ware said.

Wade then thanked SILVAR members for supporting HIF for the past 12 years. "I want to express my appreciation to the many SILVAR members who have helped us through the years."

To start donations rolling in, at the close of the program, Dale Anne Collings, longtime co-chair of SILVAR's Home for the Holidays Committee, presented Wade and Ware with a check for \$600 from the Coldwell Banker office in Cupertino.

For more information about HIF and how to donate, visit www.hifinfo.org, or call Debbie Wade at (408) 935-9201.