



## Eden 50th Celebration: A Great Success!



On Friday October 19th, 2018, Eden celebrated 50 years of providing homes to families and individuals throughout California. These homes have created a launching pad for children to go to college and families to get ahead, and a landing place for seniors to age with dignity and grace. To date, Eden has built or acquired nearly 11,000 apartments across the state and more than 100,000 people have come home to an Eden Housing community.

More than 500 guests joined us in celebrating this important Eden milestone.

It's hard to believe that 50 years ago, a small group of dedicated individuals got together, saw a need and fought to bring affordable housing to those who needed it most. Without an office space, these individuals, Eden's founding Board, met at the local IHOP, which still stands today. Our event wouldn't have been the same without a shout out to our beginnings. Pancakes with our very own Eden syrup were a big hit!



Today our Board, while I'm sure they enjoy a good short stack every now and then, continues our mission of bringing high quality affordable housing to communities in 15 counties across California. In order to continue our growth and strengthen our leadership, Eden's Board participated in an intensive leadership program called Excellence in Governance, sponsored by NeighborWorks America. Eden became a NeighborWorks affiliate in 2014 when we acquired our South County Housing portfolio. To congratulate us on our successful completion of the program, NeighborWorks representative Katie Watts joined in the fun and presented our Board with a participation stipend.



THANK YOU!

We wouldn't be able to do our work without our partners. Our success relies heavily on these partnerships and our strong relationships in all of our communities. Out two signature sponsors, Union Bank and Wells Fargo, shared a few words about the importance of our work and our partnership. Many other sponsors supported our 50 stories effort this year as well – we have raised more than 500K so far this year!



Other important partners and special guests included Fiona Ma, Vice Chair, Board of Equalization; Senator Bob Wieckowski; Ben Metcalf, Director, California Department of Housing and Community Development; Barbara Halliday, Mayor of Hayward; and representatives from Alameda County Board of Supervisors, Congressman DeSaulnier, and Congressman Swalwell as well as many others.



Perhaps most important, is the impact we have had on our residents. The Potosme family exemplifies how having a stable place to live makes a difference. Pictured here are Marcela and Karen, two sisters who have grown up at Villa Springs in Hayward. Both have gone on to college and Marcela, one of our keynote speakers at the event, is now pursuing her graduate degree. Both attribute their ability to pursue their educational goals to their affordable home, stating that not having to worry about rent has allowed them and their parents to focus on their education. We are so proud to see how these young women and many others like them are doing great things in their communities!



It's all about HOME...

A HUGE shout out to all of those who have made Eden's work possible! We can't do it alone. Everyone from our staff to our Board to our community partners play a critical part in providing homes to thousands of individuals every day!

THANK YOU! And here's to another 50 years!

