Housing for Agricultural Works Unveiled in Fort Morgan

(FORT MORGAN, Colo.) – Sol Naciente, a 50-unit affordable housing development for agricultural workers and their families in the Fort Morgan area celebrates its grand opening on Thursday, May 12. The development is the first of its kind in Fort Morgan, designed for large families to meet housing needs of the area’s large farm labor population.

Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) awarded $882,402 in federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in 2014 to support the development of Sol Naciente. The project is the first family-oriented rental housing development built in the area in more than 20 years.

“The combination of available housing and jobs is essential to the prosperity of any community. CHFA is pleased to see Sol Naciente help address the need for affordable rental housing here in Fort Morgan, and open its doors to the hard-working families of this area,” said Cris White, executive director and CEO of CHFA.

Sol Naciente was developed by Community Resources and Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC), a nonprofit developer that has built more than 500 units of farm worker housing units across Colorado.
"The completion of Sol Naciente serves as a working model for what can be accomplished when public-private partners come together with a common cause to improve the living conditions of working families, sustain a strong local workforce, and create a vibrant economy,” said Al Gold, executive director of CRHDC.

Sol Naciente is located at 322 Linda Street in Fort Morgan. Resident requirements include that 65 percent of household income must derive from agricultural labor, and annual household income must be 60 percent or below the Area Median Income in Morgan County, which is $32,400 for a three-person household.

“It is very exciting and relieving to see tenants actually moving into Sol Naciente. When Al Gold and his CRHDC staff first showed up in Fort Morgan to look for the appropriate site to meet the obvious housing needs of the local agricultural worker, who would have known the perseverance, collaboration, and time it would take to accomplish the goal,” said Jim Zwetzig, Morgan County Commissioner. "Agricultural workers are integral to the economy of Morgan County and the state of Colorado. Having safe, affordable, and available housing for their families is necessary. Sol Naciente is indeed a shining accomplishment of a collaborative effort of CRHDC with local, state, and federal leaders and agencies to provide much needed relief. Thanks Al and CRHDC for your perseverance!"

Jeff Wells, Fort Morgan city manager said, “This project represents another important chapter in the agricultural history of Fort Morgan. Providing housing that creates a sense of community to an often migratory working population provides the next generation a better chance at upward social and economic mobility. I am grateful to CHRDC for working so hard to make this happen, and I am proud of our community for coming together to make this a reality for our citizens who help make our agricultural economy work.”

About Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA)
CHFA finances the places where people live and work. Created in 1973 by the Colorado State Legislature, CHFA strengthens communities by investing in loans to low- and moderate-income homebuyers through our network of participating lenders, and making loans to affordable multifamily rental housing developers, and small and medium sized businesses. CHFA also provides education and technical assistance about affordable housing and economic development. CHFA is a self-sustaining public enterprise. CHFA issued debt is not the obligation of the state. For more information about CHFA please visit www.chfainfo.com, call its Denver office at 1.800.877.chfa (2432), or its Western Slope office at 1.800.877.8450.

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