

# National City Collaborative

.....Promoting community and family well being through partnerships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Scott L. Lowther  
2325 Euclid Avenue  
National City, CA 91950  
(619) 336-8638

On October 8, 2002, community residents and dignitaries celebrated the Grand Opening of the **Summercrest Apartment Homes**. The property, formerly known as Plaza Manor Apartments, has had a long history of problems, including drive-by shootings, gang violence, drug trafficking, domestic disputes, etc.

Now, following a complete rehab of the facilities, residents enjoy the benefits of a recent turnaround. **Las Palmas Foundation**, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping communities rebuild for a brighter future has taken the lead in rehabilitating the property.

Each apartment home has undergone complete interior and exterior makeovers as well as infrastructure improvements. Crime deterrents such as the closure of Arcadia Plaza, a previous haven for drug activity, and the addition of surveillance cameras, security fencing, gates and improved lighting have nearly eliminated criminal activity at the property.

The success at Summercrest is the result of collaborative efforts among many partner organizations. **Las Palmas Foundation** and the Related Companies of California, the non-profit and for-profit arms of a development company with a twelve-year track record, and the City of National City, the Community Development Commission of National City, the National City Collaborative, the National City Police Department and local residents are all working together to maintain the progress.

As a result of these collective efforts, both the **Las Palmas Foundation** and the Related Companies were awarded the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program's "crime free property" award by the National City Police Department. The apartment homes, designated as project-based Section-8 HUD low to moderate-income homes, include both family units as well as a seniors high-rise.

In order to provide on-site programs for seniors and families, **Las Palmas Foundation** has contracted the National City Collaborative Family Resource Centers. On-site programs include computer training, after school youth programs, seniors exercise program, a seniors day program, seniors lunch, seniors food bank delivery, community leadership classes, and the full array of social services available through the National City Collaborative Family Resource Centers on an as needed basis.

One of the Summercrest seniors said, "Everything here is so nice and has changed so much that I can't believe it. The problems we used to have are all gone now. I feel much safer with the new fences and gates."

For more information about social services for families or seniors in National City, contact the National City Collaborative Family Resource Centers at 336-8659.