

**Media Alert sent ahead of event:**

## **Grand Opening of Permanent Support Housing for Homeless Veterans and Disabled Individuals in Van Nuys**

**What:** Skid Row Housing Trust, a nationally recognized creator of permanent supportive housing, is celebrating the Grand Opening of its newest development, Crest Apartments, in Van Nuys, CA. This new in-fill permanent supportive housing development offers 64 homes to homeless individuals with high health needs, with 23 homes set aside specifically for military veterans. The Grand Opening will feature remarks by elected officials and key partners, as well as an opportunity to tour the building.

**Who:** Event speakers will include Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Keuhl, U.S. Representative Tony Cardenas, Los Angeles City Council Member Paul Kerkorian, Skid Row Housing Trust CEO Mike Alvidrez, project architect Michael Maltzan, and formerly homeless resident Randolph Brader. Additional speakers will include Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department General Manager Rushmore Cervantes, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles President and CEO Douglas Guthrie, National Equity Fund Vice President Todd Fabian, and Union Bank Senior Vice President Johanna Gullick.

**Where:** Skid Row Housing Trust's Crest Apartments, 13604 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA 91405

**When:** Wednesday, May 31st at 2pm

**Why:** Crest Apartments offers 64 homes to homeless individuals who are high utilizers of Los Angeles County Department of Health Services' emergency care, with 23 apartments set aside for homeless veterans. Crest Apartments has comprehensive medical, mental health and other supportive services onsite to help residents build healthier and more stable lives. Designed by the award-winning Michael Maltzan Architecture to facilitate healing and connection, Crest Apartments was certified LEED for Homes Platinum by the U.S. Green Building Council.

As of 2016 homeless count, there are over 47,000 people homeless in Los Angeles on any given night. 7,000 of those people are homeless in the San Fernando Valley, which experienced a 36% increase in homelessness between 2015 and 2016 - one of the largest increases in the entire County. Skid Row Housing Trust is part of a broad coalition working to create more housing options throughout the region to address this crisis.

Join Skid Row Housing Trust and its partners to celebrate new homes that end homelessness. Refreshments will be provided.

**For more information on Skid Row Housing Trust's Crest Apartments or to cover the event, please contact Communications Manager Heidi Genrich at [heidi@skidrow.org](mailto:heidi@skidrow.org) or 213-683-0522 x 172.**

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*Press Release to send immediately after event:*

## **Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless Veterans and Disabled Individuals Celebrates Grand Opening in Van Nuys**

Los Angeles, CA - Skid Row Housing Trust, a nationally-recognized creator of permanent supportive housing, celebrated the Grand Opening of its newest development, Crest Apartments, today. Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Keuhl, U.S. Representative Tony Cardenas, and Los Angeles City Council Member Paul Kerkorian, as well as project architect Michael Maltzan spoke at the celebration, which was attended by formerly-homeless residents, key partners, and community supporters.

Crest Apartments offers 64 homes to Los Angeles County's most vulnerable homeless individuals, with comprehensive medical, mental health and other supportive onsite services to help them build healthier and more stable lives. All of Crest Apartments' permanent supportive housing is reserved for homeless individuals who are high utilizers of Los Angeles County's Department of Health Services' emergency care, including 23 apartments set aside specifically for homeless veterans. "Permanent supportive housing reduces residents' reliance on expensive public health care, decreasing emergency room and inpatient admissions by 77%," said Mike Alvidrez, the Trust's Chief Executive Officer. "A home, when paired with appropriate support services, is the most effective and compassionate solution to homelessness, and ultimately reduces public costs."

Crest Apartments was built by the Trust on an open lot it acquired in Van Nuys, CA and designed by the award-winning Michael Maltzan Architecture. The five-story in-fill residential development has community rooms, green spaces, and offices for supportive services on the ground floor. It introduces a new density in the neighborhood that is public transit accessible and within walking distance of basic community resources. Crest Apartments is certified LEED for Homes Platinum by the U.S. Green Building Council. "We help people transition from chronic homelessness by offering a home that is healthy, inviting and dignified," said Dana Trujillo, the Trust's Chief Investment and Finance Officer. "Through extensive experience, we've found that the physical environment is an important part of the recovery and healing process."

Crest Apartments is the second Trust development completed outside of Downtown Los Angeles, and is an example of the organization's continued commitment to providing diverse housing options for formerly homeless individuals. Between 2015 and 2016, the San Fernando Valley experienced a 36% increase in homeless individuals, one of the largest increases in the entire County. The Trust is partnering with San Fernando Valley-based L.A. Family Housing (LAFH) to provide comprehensive case management, and The John Stewart Company (JSCo) for property management services. Trust residents are offered referrals to a wide array of services, including: physical healthcare services, mental health services, substance abuse and detoxification services, counseling, peer support groups, life skills and employment training.

## ABOUT SKID ROW HOUSING TRUST

Skid Row Housing Trust (the Trust) provides permanent supportive housing so that people who have experienced homelessness, prolonged extreme poverty, poor health, disabilities, mental illness and/or addiction can lead safe, stable lives in wellness. The Trust has extensive experience developing and operating permanent supportive housing, and currently offers over 1,800 homes to individuals who have experienced homelessness. Beyond simply providing housing, the Trust offers onsite supportive services, such as case management, mental health treatment, substance abuse recovery, and primary health care. The Trust's buildings and programs are designed to help formerly homeless residents heal, build a network of support, and achieve long-term success.

Learn more at [skidrow.org](http://skidrow.org).

### MEDIA CONTACT

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