

October 2010

Davis Migrant Center

Yolo County is home to some of California's most respected farmers and growers. As a proud supporter of our local farming community, the Food Bank would like to recognize the laborers upon whom



our local growers depend. This month we are proud to spotlight the Davis Migrant Center, which is home to many of those laborers and their families. The Davis Migrant Center is one of three Migrant Centers operated by Yolo County Housing (YCH) and its subsidiary, the Dixon Housing Authority. The mission of Yolo County Housing and its subsidiaries is "working together to provide quality affordable housing and community development services for all." The YCH seasonal migrant centers provide much needed housing to seasonal migrant workers and their families in Yolo and Solano counties.



The Davis Migrant Center was originally founded more than 25 years ago. Yolo County Housing and the State Department of Housing and Community Development, Office of Migrant Services recognized that the Center was in need of major renovation. In 2000, the center was completely demolished. After a 4 year-long rehabilitation process, and with the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural

Development (USDA-RD), the newly restored center reopened its doors in 2004.

Thanks to the ongoing generous support from the State of California HCD, Office of Migrant Services, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), every year from April through October, nearly 270 residents are able to call the Davis Migrant Center home. The temporary affordable housing facility fosters a unique sense of community for its hard-working inhabitants by providing early education and free day care centers, after school programs, state-of-the-art laundry facilities, entertainment, sports activities, and much, much more. The program enforces strict eligibility guidelines and requires multiple forms of documentation to ensure that those guidelines are met. The successes of the Davis Migrant Center are numerous, and are evidenced in the 80% return rate of the families who return each spring.

The Food Bank of Yolo County distributes 25-pound boxes of food to families who reside at the Davis Migrant Center on a monthly basis as part of its Rural Food Delivery program. Under this program, the Food Bank packs an average of almost 700 bags/boxes monthly and distributes them in rural areas to low income persons and families. The program was designed to service the needs of people in rural areas who don't have the same ease of access to food sources as people who live in cities. Yolo County Housing partners with the Food Bank not only in

the provision of services at the Davis Migrant Center, but at 4 additional sites throughout the County, including outside of Winters, the Madison Migrant Center, and within the cities of West Sacramento and Woodland.

Like many other agencies, the Yolo County Housing can always benefit from increased support from the community, in general. For more information about how you can help, please send your letter of interest to YCH Executive Director, Lisa Baker (lbaker@ycha.org), or to Jorge Almeida (jalmeida@ycha.org), Agricultural Housing Supervisor. You can also visit them on the web at: www.ycha.org.