

---

April 23, 2012

## CHPC Wants Your Resident Stories

*A veteran returns to a productive life of work and community service made possible, in part, by the resources of public housing.*

*This is a real story from Parkside Pine Housing Community, a project in Colton, California developed by the Housing Agency of the County of San Bernardino (HACSB). Please read Jose's Story and then [send us one like it](#) to help in our advocacy efforts to preserve funding for our critical housing programs.*

*Compelling stories about real people communicate our message much more effectively than columns of data alone. We are especially interested in stories from or about residents of Project-based Section 8, LIHTC, USDA Rural, or HOME funded developments that feature seniors, Veterans, or disabled residents. Your organization will receive credit for the story, along with the resident. Each story submitted should include the names of the individual or family that is featured, along with the name of the development, the city, the financing sources, and how you would like your organization to be credited. Please help us reach our goal of posting at least one resident story for each of California's 53 Congressional Districts.*

## [Affordable Housing Resident Storybook](#)

### Jose's Story

***A Journey Home: A Veteran Returns to a Productive Life of Work and Community Service, Made Possible in Part by the Resources of Public Housing***

**"My dream was to be a soldier.** The day couldn't come soon enough. I set very high standards for myself. My desire was so great." If you met Jose today... soon to be a homeowner, employed full time at Loma Linda Hospital, also a volunteer counseling fellow vets, you would never imagine the road he's traveled.



Jose Quinteros did not become a soldier. The day after high school he enlisted in the United States Army and served ten years as an explosives engineer and in Korea. Things had been going well. After the military Jose worked in the aerospace industry for NASA. "I was a junior executive making very good money. I had a really nice house on a hill in Hacienda Heights. I was happy with my life." But then the economy took a bad turn.

**By the Numbers**

30,000  
Housing Authority  
of San Bernardino County (HACSB)  
Residents

6th Highest in the US  
San Bernardino County Foreclosure Rate

-\$2.6M  
Cuts in Funding to HACSB, 2011

-\$5.3M  
Cuts in Funding, 2012

50,000  
Applicants on HACSB Waitlist

Jose was laid off, and the PTSD he sometime struggled with intensified. To escape, he turned to drugs. "The mistakes I made at that time in my life resulted in a very dark period. I got so lost." Jose saw all he'd worked for slip away. For a time his home became the streets. "My father taught me so much: honesty, integrity, perseverance. That man never gave up. So I was so ashamed."

A near fatal accident became a wake up call. "A truck hit me while I was working a construction job; I was in a coma for six days." When he woke up Jose's neurosurgeon said something that sparked a fire in him. "He told me, 'you shouldn't be alive, Jose.' He said, 'only God knows why he is keeping you here. And you have something to do.' And that reinforced the decision; I had to do something to get myself better."

***"I beseech those who have the power to advocate for affordable housing to put a face on the numbers that you see. Don't just view them as statistics. For those statistics represent veterans, seniors, working families. I am just one example of what affordable housing can produce.***

***--Jose Quinteros***



Jose freed himself from drugs, and with the help of fellow veterans and programs at the Loma Linda Veterans Administration, he began reclaiming his life and his faith. But he was still without a home.

Affordable housing gave Jose that home, and the stability and opportunities he needed to transform his life. "I want to thank the San Bernardino Housing Authority. When I first moved in to their community in Colton, California, I was so excited. It was a sense of euphoria, a continuing hope for things to get even better."

"Integrity, the work ethic, all those things my mother and father had worked to instill in their children, that root was there. It just needed to be watered. It needed to be nurtured. It needed to be encouraged. Affordable housing helped give me back my life. It gave me the resources to pursue my goals. When you have safe and secure housing, and something you can afford, there's no limit to what you can achieve."

**Jose Quinteros Today**

**Employment**  
Certified Medical Supply Technician,  
Loma Linda Hospital

**Community Service**  
Counselor to Fellow Veterans,  
Loma Linda VA  
Chairman, Resident Advisory Board,  
Parkside Pine Housing Community

**Studies**  
Director of Programming Trainee  
Loma Linda Broadcasting

**Advancement**  
Family Self-Sufficiency Program

**DEVELOPMENT:** Parkside Pine Housing Community  
**LOCATION:** Colton, California  
**REPRESENTATION:** Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Joe Baca, California Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, California Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter  
**FINANCING:** HUD Public Housing  
**RESIDENTS:** Low Income Seniors and Families

***Jose's story is published courtesy of the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, San Bernardino, California (909) 890-0644.***

---



**Send your stories to Marilyn Wacks, Housing Policy Manager,  
California Housing Partnership, 415-433-6804 x313, [mwacks@chpc.net](mailto:mwacks@chpc.net)**