



For Immediate Release

Date: June 22, 2010
NHA Contact: Kimberly Jones
619.520.0529

SEIU Contact: Melinda Battenberg
858.337.1135

Neighborhood House Association and SEIU Local 221 Sign Labor Contract for Employees

SAN DIEGO – Neighborhood House Association (NHA) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 221 today jointly held a public ceremony at NHA's administrative headquarters to announce the signing of a labor contract, through June 30, 2013, involving nearly 400 NHA employees.

"It gives me great pride, during these uncertain economic times, to be able to provide our staff, who deliver such vital services to the thousands of children and families we serve, with a sense of security," said NHA President and CEO Rudolph A. Johnson, III. "NHA is committed to the well-being of its work force and understands how important they are to the future success of our organization and the community we serve."

Key components of the mutually beneficial agreement include:

- A 3.09% COLA wage increase, implemented July 1, 2009
- A 1.84% COLA wage increase starting July 1, 2010
- No increase in health care premiums through 2011
- Fiscally responsible contract agreements
- Successful labor consolidation with SEIU 221 over the next three years

"This contract offers workplace enhancements that will allow our members to continue to provide quality service to children enrolled in Head Start programs in San Diego," said SEIU Local 221 President Eric Banks. "Our bargaining team worked very hard to ensure this contract would positively impact the lives of NHA employees and the community they serve."

In addition to successfully negotiating a solid labor contract with SEIU 221, NHA has remained committed to its entire workforce of more than 800 employees. In the past two years, NHA has been able to use federal stimulus funds to enhance wages. SEIU has been an advocate for the disbursement of federal stimulus funds to support local economies.

"This contract is important because everybody should be treated fairly and have a voice," said NHA employee and Local 221 Bargaining Team member Belvia Gipson. "A contract helps resolve problems and issues."

The contract signing was attended by SEIU 221's president and bargaining team, as well as NHA's president and other executives.

About Neighborhood House Association

NHA helps thousands of individuals and families improve their quality of life through a network of 11 programs in more than 100 locations throughout San Diego County. Further information is available at www.neighborhoodhouse.org

About SEIU Local 221

SEIU Local 221 is a diverse, member-driven organization which has members who work in many occupations to make our counties and cities safe and healthy places to live, work, and raise our families. Our members nurse our sick, educate our children, care for our seniors and provide a host of other important services throughout our communities.