

COACHELLA VALLEY HOUSING COALITION

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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\$15,000 Grant Awarded to the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition from The California Consumer Protection Foundation

Indio, Calif. – The Coachella Valley Housing Coalition (CVHC) has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the California Consumer Protection Foundation to increase access to technology and English literacy programs for underserved farm workers and their families through CVHC's Bilingual Computer Technology (BCT) program. The grant will help purchase new computers and pay personnel costs. With this grant, the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition will strive to serve approximately 150 youth and adults in Mecca, CA.

A component of the Bilingual Computer Technology program is the English literacy program which targets adults. Adults in this program learn English using computer based software which provides an opportunity to also learn basic computer skills in addition to English.

CVHC currently oversees program at four different apartment complexes in the Coachella Valley. The grant awarded to CVHC will help expand the program to two additional sites in Mecca. The BCT program gives youth in underserved areas access to computers and other educational resources needed to thrive academically.

John Mealey, CVHC's Executive Director, says that housing is one of many needs in the community. "In addition to housing, CVHC understands the need for educational programs that will have a long lasting impact on the lives of children and their families. The BCT program is our effort to provide youth with the tools necessary to accomplish their academic endeavors and promote the importance of education."

The Coachella Valley Housing Coalition also grants scholarships to students living in a CVHC apartment complex or a CVHC Self-Help Single Family home.

In 2008, the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition awarded 47 scholarships totaling \$41,000 to students attending two and four year colleges.

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Located in Indio, California, about one hundred miles east of Los Angeles, the Coachella Valley Housing Coalition (CVHC) is a non-profit housing development corporation dedicated to helping low and very-low income families improve their living conditions through advocacy, research, construction, and operation of housing and community development projects. CVHC has constructed more than 3,100 homes and apartments for low income households in Riverside and Imperial Counties. In addition, CVHC has developed childcare centers, after-school programs, and two medical clinics. It operates various services for its tenants and others including mariachi classes, English as a Second Language and Citizenship classes, an art program, and tennis and recreational programs. For more information, visit www.cvhc.org