

# SECTION 3 RESIDENT STORY:

## *Let's Get to Work!*



### Sonia's Story

Sonia Rodriquez is no stranger to balancing the challenges of life. This single mother of five has often worked several jobs to support her family. She now lives with her children at the Pueblo Del Rio public housing community. The housing assistance has been a big financial relief but she looks at it as a mere stepping stone.

When an employment opportunity presented itself with Walton Construction Services (Walton) Sonia did not hesitate to apply. She was hired as a Jobsite Office Administrator but her passion for construction won over, and she is now splitting her time between acting as an Administrator and Laborer. "I have been in construction for the last 10 years and I enjoy it. Maybe because my dad was in construction and I grew up in that environment." says Sonia.

Years ago Sonia was an intern at one of HACLA's community centers and later took advantage of HACLA's Worksource Center programs and enrolled in the Laborers Union where she honed her construction skills. For a brief period Sonia also worked with HACLA's construction team. She has held many jobs over the years and welcomed the opportunity to put her skills to work for Walton\*.

Sonia was enrolled in HACLA's Section 3 Resident Registry which is a database of Section 3 Residents looking for employment and training opportunities to enter the workforce. After learning of the Walton opportunity through the Registry, HACLA's Section 3 staff assisted Sonia to prepare for the interview and facilitated the process. Today, Sonia is very pleased with her employment and is hopeful that she will become a permanent employee with Walton.

*\*Walton Construction Services is the General Contractor for the redevelopment of New Dana Strand Phase IV. Mercy Housing California and Abode Communities are the developers. Over 150 family housing units will be built and reserved for low, very- low and extremely-low income families. New Dana Strand IV will also include supportive housing units for homeless veterans.*



***"Hopefully I will save enough money in the near future and afford to buy a house. I want to make the subsidized unit available to others in need. Maybe another single mother can have a chance to better her life with this assistance."***

Sonia Rodriquez

Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, requires that economic opportunities generated by certain U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) financial assistance for housing and community development programs shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be given to low and very low income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to businesses that provide economic opportunities for these persons.

HACLA has developed Section 3 Business and Resident Registries to assist businesses and residents to gain employment and economic opportunities.

#### SECTION 3 RESIDENTS REGISTRY

HACLA maintains a database of qualified employment-ready Section 3 Residents. Residents take assessment tests, go through a skills review and are provided resources to be employment-ready. Interested residents are encouraged to contact the Human Resources Department at (213) 252-5387 to enroll in the registry. Residents from the Registry are identified and referred to contractors for employment opportunities.

#### SECTION 3 BUSINESS REGISTRY

Businesses who wish to do business with HACLA, and to provide economic opportunities to HACLA residents are encouraged to contact the Section 3 Compliance Administrator at (213) 252-1865 or via e-mail at [section3@hacla.org](mailto:section3@hacla.org).

Additional information about the Section 3 program is available at [www.hacla.org/section3](http://www.hacla.org/section3).