For Immediate Release

Contact: Elisa Vásquez, County Housing Authority, 323-890-7415 (o)

49-UNIT SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY BUILDING OPENS FOR FORMERLY HOMELESS AND SPECIAL NEEDS INDIVIDUALS

La Kretz Villas Exemplifies how Local Partnerships can Benefit the Community

LOS ANGELES, March 29, 2012 - Formerly homeless and disabled individuals, as well as residents with special needs, came together to celebrate their new home. La Kretz Villas, a 49-unit Single-Room Occupancy (SRO) development, celebrated its grand opening today, thanks to a partnership among PATH Ventures, Related Companies of California, the City of Los Angeles, and the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA).

A five-story building located in the Hollywood area, La Kretz Villas provides residents with a spacious courtyard, a community room with kitchen, a laundry room and outdoor seating areas. The site is located one block away from the PATH Mall, allowing residents to easily access additional support services there. La Kretz Villas seeks to fill the unmet need for SRO units outside of downtown Los Angeles.
The development responds to the unique needs of disabled homeless individuals by providing intensive case management and connecting residents to the full range of support services they need to improve their health, gain increased independence and remain stably housed. Services are designed based on the anticipated needs of residents and will be continually evaluated and adapted to reflect changing needs of the resident population.

Financing for the development was made possible by the City, who contributed $6.3 million, while HACoLA provided 38 Project-Based Section 8 Vouchers, a component of its Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. A public housing authority can attach up to 20% of its voucher assistance to specific housing units if the owner agrees to either rehabilitate or construct the units, or the owner agrees to set-aside a portion of the units in an existing development. The developers, Related Companies of California and PATH Ventures, agreed to construct the units at La Kretz Villas.

Sean Rogan, Executive Director, of HACoLA stated, “The County is a proud partner in the development of La Kretz Villas. Bringing such much-needed supportive housing to residents exemplifies our mission of building better lives and better neighborhoods.”

For more information on PATH Ventures, please visit the website at www.pathventures.org; for information on services provided by HACoLA, please visit the website at www.hacola.org. All media inquiries should be directed to Elisa Vásquez, Public Information Officer for the Housing Authority, at (323) 890-7415.

###