

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Kimberly A. DeBra, First Northern Bank (707) 678-3041

Colleen Erdes, VSSC Executive Director (707) 451-4874

John Thompson, VSSC Board President (707) 330-2043

May 31, 2012

Opportunity House Gets Funding

Dixon, Calif. – The Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of San Francisco announced that Vacaville Social Services Corporation (VSSC) has been awarded \$600,000 for its new Opportunity House homeless shelter nearing completion on Bennett Hill Court. The award is from the Affordable Housing Program of the FHLB. First Northern Bank (ticker symbol: FNRN.OTCQB), an FHLB member, sponsored the application. The money will be used to payoff short term construction loans provided by the City of Vacaville and County of Solano. “This is thrilling,” said Colleen Erdes, VSSC Executive Director. “We are now only \$200,000 away from moving into our new shelter debt free.”

“Helping to create opportunities for self-sufficiency is one of the keynotes of our Affordable Housing Program,” said Jim Yacenda, Vice President and Community Investment Officer at the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco. “So we are very proud to be a source of funds for First Northern Bank’s support of Opportunity House, which offers both housing and vital supportive services that enable the most needy in the community to move with dignity toward employment and stability.”

VSSC Board President, John Thompson credited Erdes for her outstanding work applying for the grant and overseeing the construction of the new 48-bed shelter and gave kudos to the entire Vacaville community for getting involved. “This project has been blessed from the outset,” Thompson said. “We’ve had plenty of obstacles along the way but in each case generous, competent people of good will stepped forward to help make this dream happen.”

The new shelter is nearly four times the size of the current shelter downtown with expanded facilities that will enable VSSC to provide enhanced services to its homeless clients including health care and child care. The City provided the site on Bennett Hill Ct. and purchased the current shelter on Catherine St. from the owner, Vacaville Community Housing, Inc., which in turn passed the money through to VSSC for the new shelter project.

The funding from the Federal Home Loan Bank starts as a deferred loan that is eventually forgiven if VSSC continues to operate the shelter for 10 years. FHLB has assisted over 100,000 affordable housing units since 1990 when it began putting 10% of its income aside for local projects such as Opportunity House.

“First Northern Bank is a very active FHLB member,” says Vice President/Commercial Loan Team Leader-Western Region Carol Landry, a long-time Vacaville resident. “We are deeply committed to serving the people of Vacaville, and are thrilled to have played a role in securing affordable housing for the city. We’ve been backing good civic projects like Opportunity House for over 100 years. I know their new shelter is going to help a lot of people in our community. I’m so excited for VSSC and gratified to know that we could help them.”

“Vacaville is such a great place to live,” said Erdes. “People care about their neighbors and have been generous with their donations of labor, money and materials at the shelter as well as supporting our Thrift Store on Peabody Rd. and our fundraisers; especially the annual Festival of Trees event.” Erdes predicts that this loan/grant along with other grant applications that are pending and numerous pledged offers of help by local businesses and citizens will enable VSSC to move into the new shelter in about one month and be debt free by the end of the year.

About First Northern Bank

First Northern Bank, an independent community bank headquartered in Solano County since 1910, serves Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer and the west slope of El Dorado County. First Northern has 10 branches located in Dixon, Davis, West Sacramento, Fairfield, Vacaville, Winters, Woodland, Downtown Sacramento, Roseville, and Auburn, and has a full service Trust Department in Sacramento. First Northern Bank also offers 24/7 real estate mortgage loans, SBA Loans, and non-FDIC insured Investment and Brokerage Services at each branch location. Real Estate Mortgage Loan offices are located in Davis and Roseville, and real estate loan representatives are available to meet customers at any of the Bank’s branches by appointment. The Bank specializes in relationship banking and employs experts in the area of small business, commercial, agribusiness, and real estate lending, as well as wealth management. The Bank can be found on the Web at www.thatsmybank.com.

###