



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**REPS. LOFGREN, HONDA & ESHOO ANNOUNCE \$237,500 FEDERAL AWARD TO THE HOUSING TRUST OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY TO ASSIST FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS**

**Monday April 20, 2009** -- Congresswoman **Zoe Lofgren** and Congressman **Mike Honda** will present the Housing Trust of Santa Clara County with a federal appropriation of \$237,500 to help low- and moderate-income homebuyers purchase their first home. This award will assist up to 37 Silicon Valley teachers, police officers, landscapers, non-profit and entry-level, private-sector employees buy their first home.

The **Housing Trust of Santa Clara County** is nationally recognized as a model community lender and its ability to leverage public funding with private contributions to multiply the impact of each dollar raised. Since 2001, the Housing Trust has raised over \$37 million for affordable housing; matching every dollar of public funding with two dollars from the private sector. **Congressman Mike Honda** who sits on the Appropriations Committee supports this award because "What the Housing Trust has shown is that responsible lending and responsible borrowing works. The Trust's first-time homebuyer programs assist new homebuyers in Silicon Valley get the critical support they want, while helping this nation see the recovery it needs. While the American Dream of home-ownership has faltered amidst the financial crisis, the Housing Trust has kept that dream alive in our Silicon Valley."

**Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren** who, with her colleagues Honda and Eshoo was instrumental in securing the award notes that, "In these difficult economic times, I'm happy to support the work of local organizations fighting to keep the dream of homeownership alive. The Housing Trust has helped over two thousand families make homeownership in Santa Clara County a reality. Due to our region's high housing costs, otherwise qualified families are excluded from owning their own homes in Silicon Valley. The funds that I helped secure will allow the Housing Trust to continue assisting families in affording homes in what has become one of our nation's most expensive markets."

According to a recent **Silicon Valley Leadership Group (SVLG) report**, Silicon Valley CEOs continue to identify affordable housing as a top priority. While Silicon Valley is still among the least affordable areas in the country, lower home prices and interest rates have slightly opened the door to new homeowners. **Kevin Zwick**, Executive Director of the Housing Trust, says, "This is an opportune time for the Housing Trust to assist potential homeowners that have historically been priced out of one of the most expensive housing markets in the country. With this grant the Housing Trust will help working families afford a new home closer to job centers and mass transit. We are thankful to Representatives Honda, Lofgren and Eshoo for their leadership in affordable housing and this timely award."

In recognition of the strong public-private partnership core to the success of the Housing Trust, the event will be held at the **Applied Materials** campus. Joe Pon, Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Applied, states "affordable housing is critical to maintaining Silicon Valley's diverse workforce and Applied is proud of our partnership with the Housing Trust to help hundreds of families, including teachers, firefighters and police officers, make a home in our community," said **Joe Pon**, vice president of Corporate Affairs for Applied Materials. "We appreciate the leadership of Members of Congress from Silicon Valley to support the growth of this important program."

**PRESS CONFERENCE DETAILS** (Directions and parking instructions are attached):

**Monday April 20, 2009 from 9:15a.m.-10:15 a.m.** at Applied Materials (Sunnyvale Campus)  
974 Arques Ave. Sunnyvale, CA | Bldg 81| Customer Conference Room

**SPEAKERS:**

Hon. Zoe Lofgren, U.S. Congresswoman

Hon. Mike Honda, U.S. Congressman

Hon. Ken Yeager, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisor/HTSCC Chair

Kevin Zwick, Housing Trust Executive Director

Carl Guardino, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, President & C.E.O./Fundraising Chair

Joe Pon, Applied Materials, V.P. of Corporate Affairs

Christine Padilla, HTSCC-assisted first-time homebuyer