Customer and community service have been a large part of Lowe's commitment to its neighbors for more than 60 years. On May 18, 2012, Lowe's, the second-largest home improvement retailer in the world, partnered with the Community Development Commission (CDC) to help revitalize the South Whittier Community Resource Center's (CRC) Children's Community Garden. Thanks to generous in-kind donations from the Norwalk Lowe's store, the youthful gardeners used planting materials to get the starter seedlings ready for a summer garden.

Developed as an outdoor, educational enrichment activity for low- and moderate-income students participating in the CRC's After-School Homework Assistance Program, the Children's Community Garden, located within the CRC's grounds, has grown to become one of the students' most beloved accomplishments.

Utilizing donated bags of soil, plant food, seeds, and starter fruit and vegetable plants, students took part in the horticulture lessons taught by an expert-member of the Lowe's Gardening Department. Working late into the afternoon, students removed weeds, aerated the soil, planted tomato vines, carrot seeds, and an assortment of other plants. Despite the dirty hands and hard work, students were excited about the planting experience and are watching for signs of new growth. Thanks to the partnership created by the CDC and Lowe's, these budding gardeners are learning the rewards of cultivating healthy crops in their own backyard.
In April 2012, the Harbor Hills boys basketball team, which is comprised of public housing youth ages 8-12, celebrated the completion of a successful basketball season. The league is run in partnership with Kids in Sports, a non-profit organization who aims to provide high quality, low-cost, sport opportunities for underserved youth through community based sports clubs in the County of Los Angeles. During the year end party, youth enjoyed a delicious lunch and received a trophy. The league provided the kids with the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of basketball while having fun! One of the participants, Jeremiah, stated “I had fun and learned that I need to always have a positive attitude; win or lose.”

In May 2012, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) was pleased to learn it had received an Award of Merit from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) for its Computer Literacy Program (CLP). The CLP serves the residents of the Nueva Maravilla public housing community by providing an array of computer literacy classes, soft skills training, and workforce development activities. The CLP gives residents the skills, training and confidence necessary to pursue a variety of careers and attain their educational goals.

The Carmelitos Senior Health Fair was held May 31, 2012, at the Carmelitos Public Housing community senior building. Thanks to resident volunteers and staff, over 20 vendors were in attendance and provided information ranging from legal counseling to nursing services that are available to seniors. The residents enjoyed goodies provided by the vendors as well as raffles. Over 60 residents enjoyed the afternoon, making this a very successful event.
During the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, the CDC’s Economic and Housing Development Division was very busy celebrating the completion of several new affordable housing developments. Below are a few of the County's newest complexes:

**Encanto Court**  
Grand Opening: April 25, 2012

Encanto Court is an affordable housing complex located in the Athens Westmont community of Los Angeles. The complex consists of 56 senior residential units, and six special needs units, which are reserved for homeless (or at risk of homelessness) seniors with chronic mental illness earning at or below 25% of the Area Median Income. The units are being subsidized with Shelter Plus Care funds, which will provide supportive services for the special needs tenants. The CDC provided $4.6 million in Federal HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) funds.

**Euclid Villa**  
Grand Opening: May 3, 2012

Euclid Villa, a 15-unit transitional housing development for homeless families, is located in Pasadena and consists of two adjacent buildings, one of which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Euclid Villa received over $1 million in City of Industry funds to rehabilitate the development and install energy efficiency improvements such as photovoltaic system and drought tolerant landscaping. The rehabilitation and green improvements will reduce the development’s long-term operating costs and carbon footprint, while preserving its historical features.

**Hudson Oaks**  
Grand Opening: May 9, 2012

Hudson Oaks is the first affordable senior housing development in the City of Pasadena expected to achieve a LEED for Homes Platinum rating. Hudson Oaks included a major rehabilitation of a blighted three-story apartment building that was severely damaged by a fire and subsequent water intrusion. The CDC provided $1.4 million in City of Industry Funds for construction and permanent financing. The result is a beautiful 45-unit development designed to address senior needs.

**Cuatro Vientos**  
Grand Opening: May 10, 2012

The CDC joined the East Los Angeles Community Corporation to celebrate the addition of newly constructed one-, two-, three-, and four-bedroom housing units to the El Sereno community. Cuatro Vientos offers its residents a children’s play area, garden terrace, and a 600 square-foot community center to encourage social interaction. The housing units are reserved for families earning between 30 and 50% of the Area Median Income. The CDC provided over $1 million from its City of Industry Funds.
Altadena Visioning Meetings Wrap Up!

On June 6, 2012, the CDC and the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning wrapped up a trio of community “visioning” workshops in Altadena. The local community turned out in force, with approximately 275 people coming together to discuss Altadena’s current challenges and visions for the future. The community’s input will set the direction for updating the Community Standards District – Altadena’s zoning regulations, as well as provide leaders with a better understanding of what community members want to see in the future.

The first workshop gathered comments about the community’s assets, challenges and ideas for the future.

The second workshop prompted groups to delve deeper into discussions on 1) guiding principles, which are a framework for policy or action; 2) key topics to address in order to achieve the community’s shared vision for Altadena; and 3) how all of the players in the community – residents, businesses, community leaders and the County government – can act to pursue this vision. The final workshop allowed the participants to view the draft Vision Report and provide final comments and tweaks to the ideas presented.

The Vision Report identifies community suggestions relative to the following topics:

- The community's diverse, eclectic and unique character;
- Views and access to the San Gabriel mountains and nature;
- Town/district centers with thriving businesses;
- Safe and peaceful neighborhoods;
- Community cohesion and strong institutions; and
- Opportunities for outdoor activities

Although the capacity of the community and local government leaders to carry out the suggestions made through this process is limited at this time, the residents of Altadena are optimistic about their future.

HACoLA Residents Are Inspired To Succeed

On May 23, 2012, the Community Development Foundation (CDF) awarded twenty-one scholarships to Public Housing and Section 8 students attending a 4-year university, community college, or vocational program. This year’s recipients included top high school graduates, military veterans, emancipated foster youth, and first-generation college students, aspiring to succeed in tremendous careers including nuclear science, social work, landscape architecture, and graphic design.

Annually, the CDF awards scholarships to help low-income students pursue higher education through its Housing Authority Resident (HAR) Scholarships Program as it fulfills its mission to inspire Public Housing and Section 8 residents by providing positive life-changing opportunities.

The 2012 scholarships were funded by Southern California Edison; Union Bank; generous individual donors; and the employees of the CDC and HACoLA. Over 100 employees generously raised over $5,500 by fundraising or participating in the 2012 Run, Walk, or Bike for the Fun(d) on April 17th. Many more CDC employees supported the event by volunteering to cook, registering participants, passing out water, and timing participants.

Since 1997, the CDF has awarded over $175,000 in scholarships to HACoLA residents who have gone on to become professionals, such as architects, doctors, counselors, and lawyers.