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2018 OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER

El Camino Real Housing Authority

X Title Slide: Community Development

We have one recipient in our next category, which is Community Development. We are pleased to announce that MFA's 2018 Outstanding Community Partner of the year is X El Camino Real Housing Authority. This organization is a shining example of an agency that sees a need and finds a way to fill it. Over the years, they have persevered, stretched, grown and thrived. They are a true community partner.

X Thirty years ago, El Camino Real Housing Authority was called the Region Seven Housing Authority. They had one voucher program in Socorro County that served about 100 clients. Their budget was just over \$800,000, and they had two employees.

Today, the authority operates eight programs in three counties and serves more than X 700 families. It has a budget of \$3 million and employs 11 people. It has earned the HUD designation of a High Performing Housing Authority.

X It is impossible to talk about the work of El Camino Real without talking about Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez. Mary Ann was one of the two original employees back in 1988 – she was the authority's receptionist. Nine years later, she became the executive director.

Not long after Mary Ann took the helm, the authority, which was now called the Socorro County Housing Authority, did its first rehab. X Rehabilitation became a passion for Mary Ann. So, like a true outstanding community partner, she decided to do rehabs in the place where she saw the biggest need, which was in Alamo – a small community on the Navajo Reservation near Socorro. It was a long, difficult process, but the housing authority eventually rehabilitated 27 homes in Alamo.

But that was just the beginning. X The El Camino Housing Authority has now rehabbed a total of 55 homes. They are also property managers of a senior

complex. X They implemented a Family Self Sufficiency program and a Shelter Plus Care program. And they have graduated X 10 families from the Section 8 ownership program with the 11th family almost ready to buy their first home.

But that's still not all! X In the last two years, the El Camino Real Housing Authority added a HOPWA program and a Continuum of Care program to their agency's portfolio. X They manage 30 CoC vouchers in addition to 591 Housing Choice vouchers, 96 project-based vouchers, and 40 state vouchers.

So where do they go from here? X Well, the El Camino Real Housing Authority is about to do their first development project: a 50-unit permanent supportive housing facility in Socorro. X Is it any wonder why this organization is receiving this award today?

To accept the 2018 Outstanding Community Partner of the year award for the El Camino Real Housing Authority today is Executive Director Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez.