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Senior Safe House to be dedicated July 23

Sacramento Business Journal - by [Kelly Johnson](#) Staff writer

A recently built, local shelter for abused and neglected seniors, which is the first of its kind west of the Mississippi River, will be dedicated next week.

The Sacramento Senior Safe House, which will be dedicated July 23, is a six-bedroom shelter located at a confidential spot in Sacramento that provides seniors age 62 and older a safe haven for up to 90 days.

Volunteers of America, in partnership with the Sacramento Senior Safe House board of directors, will operate the 4,783-square-foot home 24 hours a day, seven days a week, a news release said Thursday. Referrals will come from Sacramento County's Adult Protective Services division.

The senior shelter is a project of Volunteers of America, HomeAid Sacramento, **Lennar Homes**, **Mercy Housing** and the **North State Building Industry Association**.

Lennar Homes coordinated the construction of the shelter. Mercy Housing purchased the property more than a decade ago and managed the planning and land development. Mercy staff oversaw the architecture, engineering and design processes, and applied for and received several large grants that funded the construction.

HomeAid Sacramento, which is the charitable arm of the North State Building Industry Association, provided more than half of the remaining construction costs from in-kind donations from the association and through gifts from the **Lennar Charitable Housing Foundation**.

The Senior Safe House is distinguished from other emergency shelters by its home-like environment, the news release said. The shelter has senior-created original art on the walls, brightly painted accent walls in each bedroom and handmade quilts for each bed.

"It brings me to tears to realize that this is finally happening," founder Maxine Milner Krugman, a Sacramento County senior citizens advocate who has been lobbying for a senior safe house for a decade, said in the release. "I have seen horrifying things, cases that just broke my heart."

"I just felt something needed to be done," said Krugman, a former chairwoman of the county's Adult and Aging Commission.

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