

EDITORIAL

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Realtors make homes reality

If words were dollars, there'd be plenty of affordable housing for the people who work in Monterey County but can't afford decent housing. There's lots of talk, much of it about how it's up to someone else to make it happen.

Enter the Monterey County Association of Realtors and the California Association of Realtors, which have come up with some real money rather than words, making an impressive \$100,000 contribution to the Community Housing Trust of Monterey County.

The trust was formed in 2004 but is just getting rolling in its plan to provide down-payment assistance to qualifying families. It and the related Monterey County Workforce Housing trust received seed money from the Fort Ord Reuse Authority and are starting to collect on pledges of \$100,000 apiece from the cities of Seaside and Monterey, \$25,000 from the county redevelopment agency and \$20,000 from First National Bank.

With the contributions announced this week by the Realtors, the Community Housing Trust hopes to be able to start helping buyers within the next couple months. It's a relatively small but important start that recognizes the task of making Monterey County more affordable isn't just the responsibility of government, developers and people buying houses at market rates. Now that the Realtors have added to the pot, perhaps other business groups will follow suit.

More information about the program can be found at www.communityhousingtrustmc.org or by calling the trust's president, Ken Steen, at 754-5053.