FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact Person: Rod Radle, Executive Director
Event Date: Thursday, April 12th, 2012 at 2:30 p.m.
Location: JT Brackenridge Subdivision
1006 S Smith (recently changed to Guadalupe Ybarra), cross street Colima
San Antonio, Texas 78207

Company Name: San Antonio Alternative Housing Corporation
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**Confirmed Participants:**
Mayor of San Antonio Julian Castro
Professor Taeg Nishimoto, UTSA College of Architecture
SAAHC Executive Director, Rod Radle

**Invited Participant:**
Marni Holloway, Texas NSP Director, TDHCA

Varied “House Jackets” to Save the Planet:
A Project to Evaluate four styles of construction & their energy efficiency.

San Antonio Alternative Housing Corporation (SAAHC) is facilitating a “visual” press conference this Thursday, April 12th, 2012, at 2:30 pm displaying four homes under construction on San Antonio’s Westside. The event will explain and demonstrate a collaborative project between SAAHC, the UTSA College of Architecture and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, which will be evaluating the energy efficiency of homes constructed from different construction materials. The exterior walls of the homes will be composed of either traditional wood frame, shipping containers (as used on trains and ships), Structural Insulated Panels (SIP Panels) or Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Blocks (AAC Blocks). **You will be able to see each examples of each of these materials on partially erected walls on each house.**

SAAHC has been working with faculty and students from the UTSA College of Architecture during the past eighteen months researching and designing the homes with an emphasis on lowering their energy use. Upon completion of the homes, the units will be monitored by the students to determine which homes are most energy efficient, and will do so under real living conditions. These homes will be available for rent to families of similar size to ensure an accurate comparison.
SAAHC has also been working with TDHCA through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) for financing for the construction of these homes. While SAAHC has built over 400 for first-time homebuyers and developed over 3,000 apartments for rental, through the NSP program SAAHC has been able to assist an additional thirty families with purchasing or renting a home.

**SAAHC will be building the FIRST shipping container house in San Antonio.**
This project will also mark the construction of the first permitted home in San Antonio made from cargo shipping containers! While shipping containers have been utilized for the creation of small office space, they have not been used for home construction. One of the homes in this project will be constructed utilizing three shipping containers. The plans for this unique house, as well as the other three homes, have all been permitted by the City of San Antonio. UTSA students will be available with renderings of each home to discuss the characteristics designed to ensure energy efficiency.

**All four homes will meet Level 1 criteria for the “Build San Antonio Green” program.** There are four components to Level 1 criteria. They include: Energy, water, site and health. Some of the features of those components include: energy star rated home, all sink fixtures rated at 2.4 gallons per minute or less, landscaping only from SAWS approved plant list, and use carpet and rug institute’s green labeled carpet. There are many more features that can be seen when the homes are complete.

The San Antonio Alternative Housing Corporation (SAAHC) is a nonprofit organization established in 1993. The mission of SAAHC is to provide decent rental and ownership housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income people in Texas; to provide housing education and ownership counseling through a community home ownership association; and to promote and create business development, job training, health and social services.

Press event will begin promptly at 2:30 pm and participants will be available for interviews following the ceremony.

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