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MEDIA CONTACT:

Lizzie Delaney, Bailey Gardiner

(619) 295-8232 x122

San Diego Association of REALTORS® Sees Membership Growth

SDAR ends 2008 with optimism and donations of \$61,000 to local causes

SAN DIEGO – The [San Diego Association of REALTORS®](#) (SDAR) experienced an increase in membership during 2008. New members, in addition to reports of increased sales listings year-to-date, give the association reason to remain optimistic and confident about the future of the real estate industry.

SDAR's monthly reports show sold listings have increased nine percent for attached homes and almost 19 percent for detached homes year-to-date. While total sales volume and median sales price have decreased, SDAR predicts a leveling out of the market in 2009.

Within the latter nine months of 2008, SDAR's membership increased by approximately 100 members each month. "We're finding that now, more than ever, REALTORS® are greatly benefiting from what the association offers," says SDAR CEO, Mike Mercurio. "In addition, this is a buyer's market and with so much chatter going on in the industry, consumers are turning to REALTORS® to make sure they have the most accurate information."

In an effort to ease membership costs for REALTORS® and to ensure consumers get the information they need from qualified sources, SDAR lowered membership dues for 2009 from \$190 to \$99 per year. Currently, the association has 10,182 members, making it the largest trade association in all of San Diego County.

The San Diego Association of REALTORS® ended 2008 hopeful and resistant to the grim stigma being attached to the real estate market. The association's well-being and optimism is backed by its charitable donations throughout the year to 10 local non-profits dedicated to various aspects of housing. The donations totaled \$61,000 and were split between organizations including community Housing Works, Father Joe's Villages, Rebuilding Together San Diego, Habitat for Humanity San Diego and Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate. In addition, SDAR aided four San Diego Police Officers in buying homes through the [SDAR Ambassadors Foundation](#).

"Giving back to the housing community is a top priority for SDAR," said Mercurio. "We're pleased to have ended a challenging year in a position where we could give financially to organizations we value supporting."

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About SDAR

The San Diego Association of REALTORS® is the largest association in San Diego, consisting of more than 10,000 members. Established in 1878, SDAR provides education, services and tools to their members, who in turn, agree to act by a standardized code of conduct and ethics. SDAR is involved on a state and national level to ensure fair real estate transactions. The association also serves as a resource for information on the local real estate market, providing monthly statistics and analysis to the general public.