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Dear Volunteers,

The gravity of the mortgage crisis and the impact it continues to have here in the Inland Empire hit home as hundreds of local families poured through the Home Ownership Preservation Workshop on August 16th. It is my hope that many families gained some help from the experts from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the mortgage lending professionals. It is with the deepest sincerity that I thank each volunteer from the housing agencies, non-profit groups and banks for spending a Saturday helping people cope with this crisis.

During this time of economic hardship, it is important that people know what resources are available and how to navigate the often unnerving foreclosure mitigation process. HUD estimates that 500 Inland Empire families came to the National Orange Show and sought help. With expert advice from 120 volunteers from 20 counseling agencies, governmental agencies, and mortgage lenders, every family had an opportunity for face-to-face support. I heard from several families that speaking to a live person rather than a telephone operator helped them better understand how to keep their homes and prevent foreclosure.

The Home Ownership Preservation Workshop in San Bernardino was the largest HUD event to date in Southern California. It seems clear that even though many families did get answers and help, many more could still benefit. I am gratified that federal officials are organizing a follow-up event on September 6th. The Foreclosure Prevention Workshop presented by Fannie Mae will also be at the National Orange Show, Valencia Room, Gate 9. For information on future events or how to contact counseling agencies or mortgage lenders please contact my office at (909) 862-6030.


Jerry Lewis
Member of Congress