

Nine Families in Goshen Get the Keys to the New Homes They Built

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Nine families in Goshen received the keys to their new homes on Friday - the houses they built themselves from the bottom up.

The homes were built through the Visalia non-profit organization Self-Help Enterprises. The families constructed the houses as a down payment, and now all they have to do is pay a low monthly mortgage.

Vincent Lupio, is one of the new homeowners. He stood proud alongside his wife Lisa, as they opened up the door to their new home with the keys on Friday.

"Now it's ours and we can move in and bring our family here and our son and it feels really good!" exclaimed Vincent.

The Lupio's had always hoped to buy a home. But what took them by surprise, is every part of their house, was built by their own hands. It was labor work they never thought they had in them.

Vincent said, "Putting up walls and finishing the concrete and putting in your driveway and then finally seeing your carpet go in, and then to completion and now you're getting your key."

Their dreams were granted by Self-Help Enterprises. The organization helps low income families become homeowners. The only caveat is, they have to build it themselves.

Lupe Felix, one of the senior loan processors with Self-Help Enterprises said, "Families have to get a loan through the USDA Rural Development. That's a state program. And we help them, we get the families together, we help them, we package the loans for USDA. We present it to them, they approve 'em, they get the loan, and as a group they start building the home from the ground down."

Elizabeth Vargas is another one of the new homeowners. At the age of 25, she's one of the youngest new owners. She said, "It's very exciting and very emotional to think at the age that I am today, I would have never thought that I would have a home."

Now it's about celebrating the hard work and accomplishment, as they look into the future as homeowners.