

## Staff Reports

Self-Help Enterprises and the City of Visalia are pleased to announce grand opening of the Highland Gardens apartment rental community. Highland Gardens features 36 two- and three-bedroom apartments as well as a half-court basketball court, playground, community center, and community garden where residents can grow fruits and vegetables.

The community center will provide a location to conduct after school programs, ESL classes, and financial literacy workshops, among other resident services. The on-site computer lab will offer computer classes and the computers will also be available to adults and children for school work and educational activities. In conjunction with the community garden, Self-Help Enterprises will coordinate other health education opportunities on-site, including Zumba (and other exercise opportunities), prevention screenings, and healthy cooking classes.

Highland Gardens also features green building practices designed to foster a sustainable future for the residents and community. Green features include Energy Star® appliances, solar PV, water conservation components, and solar carports that will generate renewable energy, lowering utility costs for residents and providing shaded parking.

The design of Highland Gardens, located between Riggan and Ferguson Avenues, minimizes the need for motorized transportation. Key services and amenities are located within walking distance, including Fairview Elementary School, Fairview Village Park, Visalia Health Care Center, Food 4 Less and Vallarta supermarkets, bus lines, and pharmacies.

Monthly net rents, ranging from \$366 to \$830, are determined based on family size and income. By offering low monthly rents, Self-Help Enterprises and the City of Visalia are providing an affordable housing opportunity that will serve the needs of hardworking, low-income families.

Highland Gardens, the first rental project in Visalia for Self-Help Enterprises, is among 28 affordable apartment rental communities operated by Self-Help Enterprises throughout eight counties in the San Joaquin Valley.

# Self-Help Enterprises Celebrates Opening of New Apartment Community



Visalia Mayor Steve Nelsen was one of many local dignitaries present at the opening of Self-Help Enterprises' Highland Gardens apartment complex. Courtesy/SHE



Highland Gardens features green building practices and Energy Star appliances. Courtesy/SHE

To apply for an apartment, families can call 559-651-2579. Applications are also available in person at Goshen Village I - 30940 Road 72 in Goshen.

Additional project support provided by California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, Wells Fargo Bank, NeighborWorks America®, the California Community Reinvestment Corporation, and the Central Valley Regional Foundation. Ashwood Construction, Inc. served as the general contractor.

### About Self-Help Enterprises

Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) is a nationally recognized community development organization whose mission is to work together with low-income families to build and sustain healthy homes and communities. The pioneer and leading provider of mutual self-help housing in the United States, SHE's efforts today encompass a range of efforts to build better homes and communities for farmworkers and other hard working families.