

VALLEY VOICE

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Valley Voice • 13

AmeriCorps Partners with Self-Help Enterprises

A team of 12 young adults from the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC), will assist Self-Help Enterprises through March 22 to construct affordable housing for low-income families in Goshen.

The mission of Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) is to assist low-income residents of the San Joaquin Valley in improving their living conditions. SHE's New Homes program works to fulfill this mission by designing modest, energy-efficient homes and guiding the future homeowners through the process of securing a mortgage loan and building their home through "sweat equity." Since its founding in 1965, SHE has helped over 6,000 families achieve their dream of owning a home.

"We are incredibly grateful for the service of these dedicated Amer-

iCorps members," said Peter Carey, CEO of Self-Help Enterprises. "Their commitment to help the community and low-income families in need of affordable housing is an inspiration."

The NCCC team will work alongside SHE participant homebuilders as well as a SHE onsite construction superintendent. The team will be participating in construction tasks including pouring foundations for the homes, framing, blocking, electrical work, trim carpentry and siding.

"I'm proud and pleased to know that these struggling families will have a roof over their heads because of the work my team has done with Self-Help Enterprises," said Travis Culbreth, an AmeriCorps NCCC member.

Self-Help Enterprises is a national-ly recognized housing and community

development organization serving the San Joaquin Valley since 1965. The largest developer of mutual self-help housing in the nation, SHE has helped over 6,000 low income families to build their own homes. In addition, the organization has rehabilitated over 6,000 homes and developed over 1,300 units of rental housing. SHE also provides technical assistance to small communities working to meet sewer, water and other community housing needs.

The AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and its FEMA Corps units engage 2,800 young Americans in a full-time, 10-month commitment to service each year. The program is currently celebrating its 20th anniversary. AmeriCorps NCCC members address critical needs



related to natural and other disasters, infrastructure improvement, environmental stewardship and conservation, and urban and rural development.

For more information about Self-Help Enterprises, visit SelfHelpEnterprises.org. For information about the National Civilian Community Corps, visit NationalService.gov.