

Visalia nonprofit makes top 50 list



Rachel Murillo connects power leads as other volunteers add solar panels to a Self-Help Enterprise project in Tulare. RON HOLMAN

Self-Help Enterprises 42nd in developers ranking

Luis Hernandez

Visalia Times-Delta
USA TODAY NETWORK

Self-Help Enterprises was ranked 42 in a list featuring the Top 50 affordable housing developers in the United States.

Based in Visalia, Self-Help Enterprises is one of seven nonprofit organizations to make the Top 50 list.

"This ranking is a testament to our commitment to addressing the shortage of much-needed affordable housing," said Tom Collishaw, president and CEO of Self-Help Enterprises.

Last year, Self-Help Enterprises started construction at nine housing developments with 156 homes.

But Self-Help Enterprises' work in the Valley dates back decades.

Starting in 1965, Self-Help Enterprises has worked to create rental and homeownership op-

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portunities for families and farmworkers in Tulare, Kings, Kern, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Stanislaus counties. Farmworker families occupy about 75 percent of Self-Help Enterprises' new construction developments.

Last year, Self-Help Enterprises completed zero-net energy retrofit project in Madera County. The project retrofitted a 30-year-old farmworker housing project.

In Tulare County, Self-Help Enterprises broke ground on two new apartment rental communi-

ties — the 44-unit Sierra Village apartments in Dinuba and 50-unit Palm Terrace apartments in Lindsay.

Self-Help Enterprises will incorporate sustainable features, including solar, water conservation measures, and a vanpool program.

Earlier this year, Self-Help Enterprises received money for a refurbishing project in Visalia. In addition, Self-Help Enterprises was involved in projects to bring water to Tulare County homes when their domestic wells dried.

"We are proud of our partnerships with public officials, community organizations, and many others who work with us to provide a range of homeownership and rental opportunities for low-income families," Collishaw said.

This year, Self-Help Enterprises will seek financing for more than 300 new multifamily units for six projects in around the Central Valley.