

FOX 26

New affordable housing development celebrated in Southwest Fresno

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FRESNO, Calif. (FOX26) — A major milestone in affordable housing development was celebrated Wednesday morning in Southwest Fresno, as local leaders gathered to highlight progress on two new infill housing projects aimed at expanding homeownership opportunities for low-income families.

Self-Help Enterprises, in partnership with the City of Fresno and community lenders, hosted the event at 35 E. Florence Avenue, where 17 energy-efficient homes have been developed across two phases.

Many of the homes are already occupied or in escrow, with several still available for purchase.

"We're proud to be investing in Southwest Fresno," said Tom Collishaw, President and CEO of Self-Help Enterprises. "Low-income homeownership is a miracle and we're working with our partners to create one miracle at a time."

Speakers at the event included Fresno Mayor Jerry Dyer, Council Vice President Miguel Arias (District 3), and Dyke Mundy, Home Mortgage Sales Manager with Tri Counties Bank.

"The homes that you see here today are valued at about \$325,000," said Arias. "This isn't an opportunity to thank us as leaders, it's an opportunity to thank yourselves. You have been paying taxes for a long time in the city. You have been advocating for decades for this project and we want to thank you for that investment and that effort and we'll continue to invest in West Fresno in homeownership opportunities as people deserve it, and they've earned it and they've paid for it."

Attendees also heard a personal story from Edgar Navarro, one of the new homeowners.

The developments are part of an effort to bring sustainable, high-quality housing to an area that has historically faced barriers to homeownership.

The homes are available to families earning below 80% of the area median income.

"We're proud to say that we invested \$800,000 as a city into this project, money that I believe to be well spent," said Mayor Dyer.

Guests were invited to tour the newly completed homes and speak with new residents and city leaders about the community impact.

Self-Help Enterprises has been a leader in affordable housing and community development across the San Joaquin Valley since 1965.