

FOX 26

Sanger celebrates opening of Cherry Crossing affordable housing community

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SANGER, Calif. (FOX26) — Community leaders, residents, and partners gathered on Friday to celebrate the grand opening of Cherry Crossing, a new affordable housing community in Sanger.

The development brings 72 high-quality rental homes to the area, including 18 homes specifically for farmworker families.

Cherry Crossing addresses the urgent need for affordable housing in a region with deep agricultural roots and a growing demand for homes.

Developed by Self-Help Enterprises, the project aims to invest in the community by providing safe, affordable living spaces paired with services that support education, health, and financial mobility.

"Cherry Crossing reflects the kind of forward-thinking, inclusive development that strengthens entire communities," said Tom Collishaw, President and CEO of Self-Help Enterprises. "It meets a real need for workforce housing in Sanger while also creating a space where families can feel supported, connected, and be proud community stakeholders."

"This project not only helps the City of Sanger itself, but also the surrounding cities and the region of Fresno County," said Mayor Frank Gonzalez.

"This community brings us all together." Gustavo Velasquez, HCD Director, added, "The community of Sanger and the families who have the opportunity to call Cherry Crossing home will benefit greatly from this much-needed infusion of new, affordable rental housing. HCD is proud to help ensure those who work tirelessly to feed America have a quality home where their children can safely play, learn, and thrive."

A highlight of the event was a testimony from Jasmin Paz, a new Cherry Crossing resident, who shared how the affordable housing opportunity has transformed life for her and her 13-year-old son.

"After losing my father and struggling with rising rents, I needed a fresh start," said Jasmin.

"Cherry Crossing gave me that opportunity. Now my son and I have a home we can afford, and I finally have peace of mind and stability."

Cherry Crossing offers a mix of one-, two-, and three-bedroom homes designed for energy efficiency and comfort. The development features all-electric units with solar power systems, dual-pane windows, shaded eaves, and modern layouts. A central 3,888-square-foot community building provides gathering and program space, while outdoor amenities include a basketball court, picnic areas, and a playground for children.

In addition to housing, Self-Help Enterprises collaborates with community partners to offer free on-site resident services such as job training, health and wellness programs, financial coaching, and homebuyer education. These supports are designed to help residents thrive and become self-sufficient.

Cherry Crossing was developed by Self-Help Enterprises in partnership with the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the City of Sanger, and a range of public and private funders. The homes are reserved for income-qualified households and represent a significant step forward in addressing the housing needs of working families in the San Joaquin Valley.