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10 Families Celebrate the Completion of their Mutual Self-Help Homes in Elk Ridge and Santaquin!

An Open House was held in Elk Ridge Meadows Subdivision in Elk Ridge City on Monday, November 24, 2014. Ten families celebrated the completion of their Self-Help homes with a ribbon cutting and home tours. These 10 families had been working for the past seven months to complete the homes in their group. The 10 homes were built in Elk Ridge City and Santaquin.

The Open House was attended by family and friends of the homeowners along with city officials, a representative from Senator Lee’s office, USDA-RD officers and State officials.

Congratulations to the families that built with this group: Jesus & Staci Bedolla, Jayden & Kallie Brian, Brian & Ali Childs, Chris & Julie Cloward, Alberto & Miranda Garcia, Scott & Chelsea Herrick, Spencer Hone & Shelby Deveraux, Halie Hunter, Mitch & Nikota Lee and Michael Price & Andrea Haymore.

Self-Help Homes Purchases New Office Building

Self-Help Homes is proud to announce the recent purchase of a new office building in downtown Provo. The office building is located at 61 North 400 West in Provo. The 5325 square foot building is currently being remodeled to meet the needs of Self-Help Homes. The remodel should be completed by the Spring of 2015.

The new office building will include a meeting room to hold Pre-Construction Meetings with MSH participating families, a board room, a conference room and a beautiful new entrance and lobby area.

After the renovation of the building is complete, an Open House will be held so interested individuals may walk through the building.

3.375% USDA-Rural Development’s mortgage interest rate for December 2014
Tony Hernandez, USDA Rural Housing Services Administrator, tours Mutual Self-Help Homes in Elk Ridge City

A Rural Housing and Community Conference was held in Salt Lake City on May 13-15, 2014. During the conference, the attendees were addressed by Tony Hernandez, the USDA Rural Housing Administrator, about housing issues. As part of his visit to the conference, he was invited to tour the Mutual Self-Help Homes that were being built in the Crestview Estates Subdivision in Elk Ridge City under the direction of Self-Help Homes. Homeowners were able to visit with him as he toured their almost-finished homes.

“These wonderful people are just like everyone else and have had the dream of owning their own home. These couples want to own their future and own their home. These are hard-working people who have spent many hours working on these homes,” Hernandez said. “They should be proud of the work they have done and their new homes.”

Brad Bishop, SHH Executive Director, receives Skip Jason Community Service Award at HAC Conference

Nominated by his peers and selected by HAC’s board of directors, Brad Bishop received the Skip Jason Community Service Award, which recognizes individuals whose efforts have improved the housing conditions of the rural poor in their communities. It is named for Robert M. “Skip” Jason, a long-time housing activist with considerable community experience, who died in 1982 while employed as HAC’s Government Services Director.

Congratulations to Brad Bishop for being recognized for his efforts in improving housing opportunities for families in rural Utah and Wasatch counties.

Pictured with his wife, Kelli Bishop, Brad Bishop receives the Skip Jason Community Service Award from Moises Loza, Executive Director of Housing Assistance Council (HAC).

The Evans Team with Summit Realty makes Donation to SHH

The Evans Team with Summit Realty shared a $10,000 donation to further the mission of Self-Help Homes. This generous donation was made at SHH’s November board meeting. We are looking forward to a great partnership with The Evans Team. A special thank-you to them!

From left to right: Matt Evans, Nathan Murray, Scott McCauley, Brad Bishop, Denton Alexander, Lynell Smith, Sean Frazier, Lynn Robbins and Dan Evans.

Tony Hernandez, USDA Rural Housing Services Administrator, tours Mutual Self-Help Homes in Elk Ridge City

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Pictured left to right: Scott Tuttle, homeowner, Tony Chavez, SHH Construction Supervisor, Joel Bennett, SHH Construction Supervisor, Tony Hernandez, USDA Rural Housing Services Administrator and Rhett Gordon, homeowner.
As we reflect back on the past year, our thoughts turn to our wonderful partners and their generous contributions! Your continued support of the Mutual Self-Help Program is greatly appreciated!

Plans for Elk Ridge Meadows Subdivision Park

Construction has begun on the new Elk Ridge Meadows Subdivision Park. This park will be a great asset to the neighbors in Elk Ridge Meadows Subdivision. The funding for this park and walkway was received through the participation of Elk Ridge City, Self-Help Homes and a $100,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from HUD received through Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG). The park will include a playground, walkway, picnic tables, benches and beautiful landscaping.
FARR FAMILY BLESSING

After Ron and Jane Farr were married in 2010, the couple rented a basement apartment in American Fork, Utah. With limited incomes, one of their biggest dreams was to become homeowners. Above all, the Farrs wanted to have a place to welcome visitors and friends and to share their new lives together.

In 2013, the Farrs contacted Self-Help Homes and were quickly approved to participate in the organization’s Mutual Self-Help Housing program, which helps low-income families build their own homes on nights and weekends. Although they were both already in their 60s and Mr. Farr suffered from serious health problems, the couple was eager to get started. As Ms. Farr said, “We were so very happy and lucky for the opportunity to actually build a home. It was really a blessing and answer to our prayers.”

Sadly, three days before starting construction on their home, Mr. Farr passed away. With the help of relatives, friends, and members of her church, Ms. Farr was able to complete the construction on her new home and earn $34,500 in equity. Because she received a USDA Section 502 Direct Homeownership Loan for $199,000, her monthly mortgage payment is just $11 more than what she previously paid in rent.

Today, Ms. Farr is proud of her new home and dedicates it to her late husband. “There were times I was on the brink of giving up, but I put my trust in the Lord...He blessed me with kind and supportive supervisors and four other families who were so understanding of my limitations.”