

Self-Help Sentinel

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|---|
| Family Spotlight: Luke & Leina Fitzgerald | 2 |
| Donating Partners | 2 |
| Where is SHH Currently Building? | 3 |
| Northfield Crossing House Plan Elevations | 3 |
| Google Review with the Roundy Family | 4 |
| SHH New Employee | 4 |
| SHH in Washington County | 4 |

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Self-Help Homes Holds its First OPEN HOUSE In Nearly Two Years Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic



Group 64 Ribbon Cutting

Self-Help Homes held its first Open House since September 25, 2019. In almost two years, six other groups (58 through 63), totaling 55 families, finished their homes. Self-Help Homes was not able to celebrate with them due to the COVID Pandemic. A belated congratulations to those 55 families!

On July 8, 2021, SHH held an Open House in Wasatch Vista Subdivision in Heber City to celebrate 10 families completing their homes. These 10 families included five single individuals and five couples that worked together to build 10 beautiful homes. Heber City Mayor, Kelleen Potter, welcomed the families to Heber City along with congratulations from Bill Swadley with Alta Bank. Leina Fitzgerald and Kevin Durr, family participants, shared their experiences with building together with Group 64. The 10 families in Group 64 included Jason & Kalie Douglas, Kevin & Tori Durr, Luke & Leina Fitzgerald, William & Ashlyn Fuller, Andrea Greathouse, Pauline Mecham, Jacob & Rachel Squire, Caylan Watson, Suzanne Watson and Jennifer Zur. Congratulations to each of these amazing families for a job well done. Also, a special thank you to their Construction Supervisor, Carter King.



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Luke and I were looking to purchase a home in Midway or Heber during the summer of 2018 and we got very discouraged. We had put an offer down on a house that got rejected so we started looking at houses that were in foreclosure. All of the houses that were within our budget were dumps. We were thinking that we would have to take them down to the studs and start from scratch but realized we were already using up most of our budget just to purchase the house.

Then we heard about Self-Help Homes later that summer and we were so excited and so skeptical at the same time. We looked into the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program immediately and we looked at each other and said “yeah, this is it” and we got on the Waiting List as soon as possible and started our wait. We knew it would be at least a year before anything would happen so we continued to rent basement apartments with no windows, loud neighbors, terrible smells, all the while we dreamed of this brand new house we were going to build.

There were three Open Houses that we went to in Heber after being put on the Waiting List and every time we went to one we got more and more excited. We tried to bring any family that would come so they could see it is a real program and not a scam. Many of them thought that it might not be real. Anytime I would tell someone about the program they would look up the website right away and say “oh wow, it’s real!” So showing people to get support was important for us.

Fast forward to 2020 and we finally made it into Group 64! We had chosen our lot, paint colors, cabinets, house colors, carpet, etc. It was starting to feel real! We took many drives through Provo Canyon to our empty lot and talked, laughed and cried there, just dreaming of the day we would finally get to start building. Then August 2020 came, mid pandemic, we attended all our Pre-Construction Meetings, we signed all the paperwork including our USDA-RD loan and we finally began building!

After the first couple months of building, we came to realize that building a house was a lot of hard work and sacrifice. We were one of the unlucky families in our group that got to drive Provo Canyon multiple times a week to get to the job site. After learning new skills each week, worrying about



THE FITZGERALD FAMILY

making the required 35 hours per week, buying lunch every day, finding volunteers to help us with our hours and finding a babysitter for our child, we realized that we were not only building the 10 houses in our group but we were building friendships with our soon to be neighbors. By the end of the build, we had fallen in love with the program all over again.

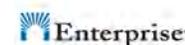
Our group had all come together as a new community to build each other's houses. For us and many in our group, this was their first home. Most of us had been living with family or in rental situations. Not only did we all get to own a house, we built them together and they’re brand new. I want to thank each person in our group for their contribution to OUR Self-Help house. We all did something on all 10 houses. We all helped each other out and I think that's pretty amazing. Without this program we would not be moving into a house. We would still be stuck in a windowless basement and probably renting for the rest of our lives.

Partners Continue to Support the Mutual Self-Help Program

Thank you for your donations and support of the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. It is appreciated by many!



Wells Fargo Foundation



WHERE IS SHH BUILDING NOW?

Groups 67, 68 & 69—Salem

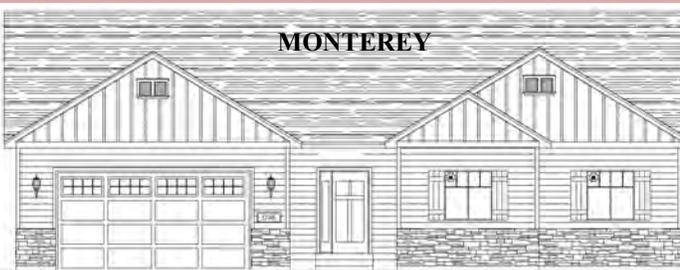
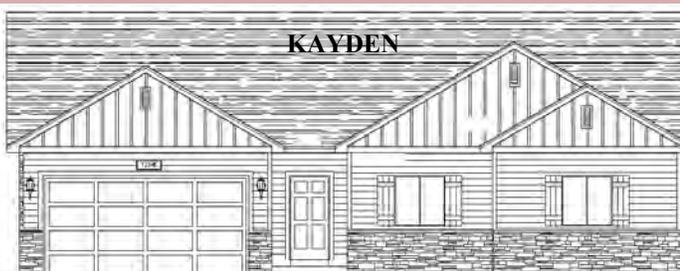
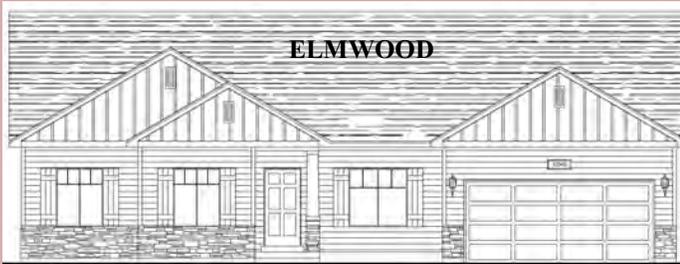
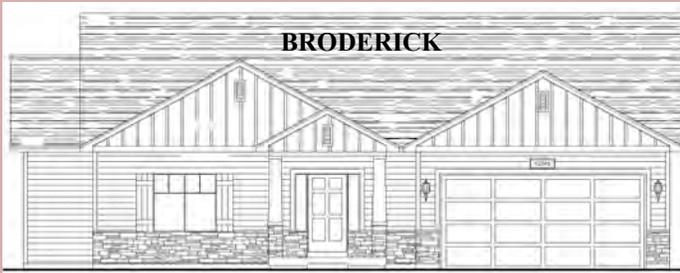


Northfield Crossing Subdivision

Northfield Crossing Subdivision is a 67-lot subdivision developed by Self-Help Homes. It is located near Stokes Grocery Store off Highway 198 in Salem. If you are interested in building in the Salem area, please contact us.

New Northfield Crossing House Plan Elevations

See complete floor plans on our website



Groups 65 & 71—Heber



Wasatch Vista Subdivision

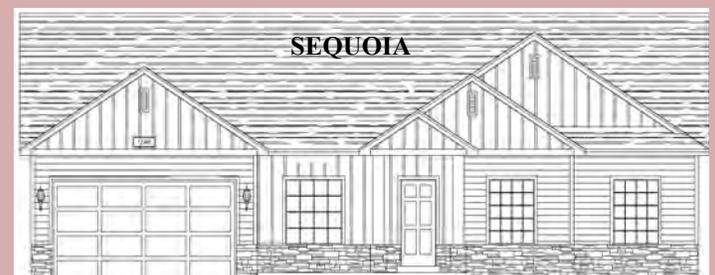
Self-Help Homes is beginning the development of Phase III of Wasatch Vista Subdivision. Phase III will include 42 lots. We are looking for families for our next group that should begin sometime before the end of 2021.

Group 66 & 70—Hurricane



Hurricane Heights Subdivision

If you are interested in building in Washington County, we are currently gathering families for the next group to build in Hurricane Heights Subdivision.



ADDRESS

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Check out our
updated website
www.selfhelphomes.org



Follow us @SelfHelpHomes

SHH Hires Nate Barker as a
Southern Utah
Construction Supervisor



Don't Forget!

SHH will pay past participants \$50 for referring someone to our program. We will pay you when your referral closes on their 502 Loan.

Did you build with Self-Help Homes? Consider leaving a review on Google to let others know about your experience. Thank you to Shayla Roundy, a Group 63 Participant, for leaving a review on Google to share the experience she had building with Self-Help Homes. Here's what she said.

“Building with Self-Help Homes was such an honor. We had no idea how we were ever going to financially afford a house right now and when we got the call that we were next on the list, it was a huge blessing to us. The building process was actually quite exciting and exhausting. There were days that we just felt like it was a lot. Having had our 2nd baby right before we started building put a lot of stress on my husband but we were so lucky to have a dedicated volunteer to help get the hours we needed from start to finish. Through this we made friends, especially with the people we were going to be neighbors with! Our supervisor, Dave, was incredible at guiding us through building and he was always informative on any questions we had. Debbie and Halie, in the office, made the application process very easy. When it came time to sign for our loans, Debbie was able to get us in and guide us through everything. I just want to say “thank you” to everyone who made it such a great experience!”



To leave a Google Review for Self-Help Homes, just type “Self-Help Homes” into your Google Search Bar. Click on “Write a review” in the right-hand section of the search results screen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Self-Help Homes administers the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program in Washington County also. Since 2016, SHH has assisted 29 families in building their homes in Toquerville and LaVerkin. Nine more homes are currently under construction in Hurricane and an additional seven families are getting ready to close on their loans and start building in Hurricane. If you are interested in building in Southern Utah, please contact: Julie Lindquist in our St. George Office. 435-429-1048

