



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHIP AND USDA CELEBRATE 50 YEARS, 50,000 HOMES WITH BLOCK PARTY IN BIGGS

BIGGS—Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) celebrates the 50th year and 50,000th home built since the inception of the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program with a neighborhood block party in Biggs on Tuesday June 9 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Community members and government representatives are invited to help CHIP celebrate alongside 56 new homeowners at the **North Biggs Estates Subdivision at 2nd Street and North Biggs Drive in Biggs**. This is a family event, with entertainment and games in the street and a catered lunch. We are honored to have in attendance USDA Rural Housing Service Administrator Tony Hernandez and Roger Frith, Vice Mayor of Biggs.

Dozens of self-help organizations across the country are celebrating collectively in partnership with the National Rural Self-Help Housing Association and the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Agency in support of affordable, rural homeownership and vibrant and sustainable communities. During USDA's National Homeownership Month, CHIP and Rural Development California will celebrate years of partnership helping California's rural residents build new houses and make critical home repairs with the help of their neighbors. USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, offers programs designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

Through the program, homeowners spend a minimum of 30 hours per week on home construction in groups of six to ten families. Each house takes about 10 months to build and no one moves in until all the homes are completed. "A good home is the foundation of a solid community," said USDA Rural Development California's Single Family Housing Program Director Ron Tackett. "Our rural California communities deserve safe, decent, affordable housing so that their residents can prosper, raise their families, start new businesses and healthy, productive lives. We are so pleased to celebrate our long-time partnership with CHIP to make that vision a reality."

"CHIP has helped more than 1,700 families build their own home and none are more satisfying than these homes in Biggs," says Dave Ferrier, CHIP's president /CEO. "We couldn't have done this without the help of our partners such as USDA Rural Development, Rural LISC, the State Department of Housing, the City of Biggs and a long list of others. Congratulations to the new homeowners, and I look forward to the next 50,000 self-help homes."

CHIP is a private, non-profit corporation that provides quality affordable self-help housing and rental apartment communities in seven Northern California counties. CHIP is a chartered member of NeighborWorks America, whose mission is to create opportunities for people to live in affordable homes and build communities.

For more information on self-help housing visit www.chiphousing.org and www.selfhelphousingspotlight.org

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