



PRESS RELEASE & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

For: Peoples' Self-Help Housing

For: Immediate Release

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Peoples' Self-Help Housing Hosts "Summer Reading is Fun!" for National Summer Learning Day

What: Community members and parents will read, prepare crafts and cook with students

When: July 9, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Where: 400 Oak Hill Road, Paso Robles

Editor please note: The bottom of this release contains tips to help parents keep kids sharp over the summer from the National Center for Summer Learning at The Johns Hopkins University. Tips can be reprinted verbatim.

Peoples' Self-Help Housing in Paso Robles is hosting Summer Reading is Fun! on Thursday June 9, 2009 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Community members and parents will read to students, crafts and cooking will be part of the day as well. Peoples' Youth Education Enhancement Program offers a free summer program K-6 for 35 children who live at the Learning Center at Canyon Creek Apartments, 400 Oak Hill Road, Paso Robles.

"If kids aren't learning over the summer, they fall behind academically," says Kim Gaspar, Lead Educator. "Quality summer learning programs help kids get ahead while they explore new talents and discover the joy of learning something new. Students need extra time for learning, and quality summer programs offer that."

During the week of July 6, cities around the country will hold events to raise awareness of the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities in the lives of youth and their families. The week's activities will culminate with Summer Learning Day on July 9, an annual national event organized by the National Center for Summer Learning to focus attention on how quality summer learning programs help close the achievement gap and promote healthy development.

In Paso Robles, Peoples' Self-Help Housing will host an event where community members and parents will read to students, prepare crafts and cook. Summer Learning Day is sponsored by the National Center for Summer Learning at The Johns Hopkins University. (www.summerlearning.org)

Peoples' Self-Help Housing joins summer learning advocates from across the country urging local school districts to spend some of the \$100 billion for education in President Obama's economic reinvestment and recovery package on summer learning programs. "The president has approved an unprecedented investment in education," said Ron Fairchild, executive director of the National Center for Summer Learning. "Summer learning programs are a proven educational innovation that will close the achievement gap. This is a historic opportunity to use new public dollars for summer learning programs and help thousands more children achieve their full potential."

Research shows that all children experience learning loss when they don't engage in educational activities during the summer. Here are simple, low-cost things parents can do to make sure their children are active and engaged this summer:

**SUMMER LEARNING TIPS:
HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF SUMMER**

The National Center for Summer Learning encourages parents to make the most of children's summer break with the following suggestions:

- Locate a summer program that fits your budget. Programs offered by schools, recreation centers, universities, and community-based organizations often have an educational or enrichment focus.
- The library is a great, free resource. Check out books that interest your child. Participate in free library summer programs and make time to read every day.
- Take free or low-cost educational trips to parks, museums, zoos and nature centers.
- If you are taking a day trip by car, choose a place with an educational theme. Camping is also a low-cost way to get outside and learn about nature.
- Practice math daily: Measure items around the house or yard. Track daily temperatures. Add and subtract at the grocery store. Learn fractions while cooking.
- Play outside. Limit TV and video games. Intense physical activity and exercise contribute to healthy development.
- Do a community service project. Teach your child how to volunteer in your community and show compassion to others.
- Keep a schedule. Continue daily routines during the summer with structure and limits. The key is providing a balance and keeping kids engaged.

- Prepare for fall. Find out what your child will be learning during the next school year by talking with teachers at that grade level. Preview concepts and materials over the summer.

The mission at Peoples' youth education program is to provide a safe, healthy, nurturing environment that encourages learning through strong partnerships with families, schools and the community.

Founded in 1970, Peoples' Self-Help Housing is an award winning non-profit organization that develops affordable housing and community facilities for low-income households and homeownership opportunities for working families. With over 1,100 homes completed and over 1,200 rental units owned and managed by Peoples' Self-Help Housing, PSHH is the premiere affordable housing and community developer on the Central Coast, with offices in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

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