



## San Miguel Families Near Completion on 1200<sup>th</sup> Home Built with Peoples' Self-Help Housing

**San Miguel, Calif., July 26, 2019** – This weekend, nine families gathered to put the finishing touches on the landscapes for their self-help home builds. Included in this group is the 1200<sup>th</sup> house to be built through PSHH's home ownership program.

“We are so proud to have facilitated home ownership for over 1,200 individuals” says PSHH CEO/President John Fowler. “However, the real recognition should be reserved for those who have participated in this program and committed their time, energy and focus towards building a house for themselves.”

This recent group of homeowners is one of four groups in the San Miguel subdivision, located just south of 11th Street. The families in this group began construction in June of 2018 and are excited to complete their homes later this month. In early August PSHH will celebrate the completed construction with a small key ceremony and subsequently families will be able to move into their new homes. Their street will also feature the first little library in a self-help neighborhood, with English and Spanish books available for community members.



*Future homeowners tirelessly put the finishing touches on their home's landscapes, with plans to move in later this month*

The nearly 49-year-old program assists low-income families with the construction of a new home while reducing the associated costs. Generally, groups of about ten families work together under PSHH's supervision to build one another's house, reducing their building costs by 20-25 percent. Each family must contribute 2,000 hours of construction labor, which becomes “sweat equity” in lieu of a cash down payment for their house.

With tears in her eyes, participant and mother Rebecca Jones said, “Hard work pays off, it really does. If it weren't for that and for the help of my neighbors, I wouldn't be here.”

Each family member age 16 or older can help contribute to the required “family” labor hours to complete nearly all of the construction of a house with exception of the plumbing, mechanical, electrical, drywall, roofing and stucco work, which is all contracted to licensed professionals.

Since its founding in 1970, PSHH has been coordinating self-help home builds and with the completion of this group, will have completed over 1,200 homes throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. PSHH also provides owner-builders with education on home ownership responsibilities, loan qualification, applicable taxes, insurance, escrow, and access to information and

counseling to help them be successful homeowners. Construction and mortgage funding is provided through the Rural Housing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

PSHH is currently planning for the next self-help home builds, a group of seven homes in King City, CA. This will be the first project from Peoples' Self-Help Housing in Monterey County. More information about applying for the King City home build will be released in upcoming months. For more information on the Self-Help Home Ownership Program visit [pshhc.org](http://pshhc.org) or call (805) 540-2446.

### **About PSHH**

Founded in 1970, PSHH is the largest nonprofit affordable housing developer on the Central Coast. With a mission of building homes and providing services to strengthen communities and change lives, PSHH serves low-income households, working families, seniors, veterans, those living with disabilities and the formerly homeless. It also provides homeownership opportunities through a self-build, "sweat equity" program that has seen 1,200 homes successfully completed. Through its developments and offices, PSHH has a presence in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, manages over 1,800 rental units, and employs nearly 200 staff members. For more information on PSHH, visit [www.pshhc.org](http://www.pshhc.org), email [info@pshhc.org](mailto:info@pshhc.org) or phone (805) 781-3088.

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