

Home building industry gives back to the community in many ways

By Michael Strech

NORTH STATE BUILDING
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The homebuilding industry in the greater Sacramento region is committed to giving back to the community, especially in a year like this one where there are so many needs. The BIA's efforts focus on leveraging the expertise of our members to build housing for the homeless through HomeAid Sacra-

mento and providing disadvantaged youth and students with life-skills jobs training through the North State Building Industry Foundation.

Our HomeAid chapter worked on several important area projects this year. One major project is the expansion of Powerhouse Ministries in Folsom, which will allow the program to elevate its services to existing clients and provide it with a larger platform to

serve even more people in need. Taylor Morrison, the project's Builder Captain, has deftly managed the project construction that will result in a new 40-bed facility, community center and supportive services building on Powerhouse Ministries' existing campus. The project construction is well under way, and will be completed this spring.

In another project,

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HomeAid and St. John's Program for Real Change selected Roebbelen Contracting Inc., as the Builder Captain for the new 11-unit Manufactured Village in Sacramento. This project will supplement the City of Sacramento's rehousing plan and respond to the impacts of COVID-19. Generally, this type of housing would be occupied by roommates or families working to gain stability and key skills, using the

support services and case management provided by the St. John's program.

The Foundation, meanwhile, put 20 youths through its 2019-20 Out of School Youth Program. Participants attended workshops and received one-to-one coaching from dedicated staff and volunteers.

The program curriculum included life skill competencies, effective communication, financial literacy and work readiness. At the

completion of the program year, 90% had received their high school diplomas and 90% were employed or enrolled in school.

And as part of its community service program, eight bunk beds, nine single beds and two cribs were provided to children in need.

The Foundation's summer internship program, meanwhile, provided hands-on training to 50 students. Four homebuild-

ers and 14 trades participated to provide career exploration and work experience to tomorrow's workforce. And speaking of workforce development, the Foundation partnered with Sierra College for a third consecutive semester to offer the tuition-free six-week construction fundamentals course. Vigorous COVID prevention practices were implemented so that the lab-based course could be offered in person. Nine

employers introduced students to their trades through talks, demonstrations and field trips.

Finally, the Foundation was awarded funding from the City of Sacramento's Workforce Recovery Program to recruit and assess workers displaced due to COVID.

The goal is to place 60 people into jobs within the construction industry by Dec. 30.

Project Heal has provided

the opportunity for the Foundation to try alternative job fair formats — virtual and drive-thru — that will be used going forward to serve employers and job seekers.

You can support these worthwhile nonprofit organizations by making a donation to the Foundation <https://www.biaworkforce.com/donation.html> and HomeAid <http://www.homeaidsac.org/howyoucanhelp.cfm>.