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Volunteers start building a fence during neighbor week

On Saturday, June 2nd, 50 local neighbors and residents started building a fence for the River Gardens Mutual Housing Community garden plots. Volunteers from Boy Scouts of America Troop 122 also helped.

To keep everyone going, the Health Education Council brought their people-powered "smoothie bike" that made treats for the day-long event.

"We also had a resident DJ during the lunch break," said Brandon Louie, Mutual Housing community organizer. "Despite the extreme heat, we had a great mix of people working all day long and hope to have the 900-ft. fence finished by the end of the week."

"Mutual Housing does so much good for Sacramento that it's always a pleasure to be part of their events," said Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Cohn, who came by to help.

The "smoothie bike" was the hit of the day. Kids peddle the bike to run the blender attached to the fender. Part of a statewide nutrition program for children, fresh smoothies encourage kids to eat more fruits and vegetables.

"The smoothie bike is definitely popular," said Zandi Llanos, Health Education Council community organizer. "It has its own calendar and is always booked in the summer."

The week-long event, sponsored by NeighborWorks America, mobilizes tens of thousands of businesspeople, neighbors and civic leaders to rehab and repair homes, paint and landscape properties, conduct neighborhood tours and recognize successful public-private partnerships.

The Health Education Council works to increase the daily consumption of fruits and vegetables as well as the physical activity of adults and children. For more information, go to <http://healtheducationcouncil.org>.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., NeighborWorks® America has 235 community-based nonprofits serving more than 4,500 communities nationwide in its network. Together with its national and local partners, NeighborWorks gives grants, program support, training and technical assistance to its members.

For more information on NeighborWorks® America, go to <http://www.nw.org>.



Matthew Gonzales, Boy Scout Troop 122, runs the smoothie bike while Iryna Kline, Mutual Housing community organizer, helps. PHOTO CREDIT: Brandon Louie