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YouthBuild and Another Chance participants celebrate graduation and program completion

The Venice Community Housing Corporation recently celebrated the graduation and program completion of 18 young adults, ages 16 to 24, who participated in the corporation's Youth Development programs, Venice YouthBuild and Another Chance.

Twelve youths received their high school diplomas and two received certificates for completing all of the required high school credits. Four of the youngsters have completed the YouthBuild program but have additional course work to finish in order to earn a diploma.

Both the YouthBuild and Another Chance programs partner with the John Muir Charter School, which provides the academic components of each program on site at the Housing Corporation.

YouthBuild provides construction and "green" job training, education, leadership activities and case management for at-risk youth. As part of the program's construction and green job training, the youths assisted in constructing 56 new units of housing for low-income seniors through a partnership with Community Design Center and installed solar panels on the Housing Corporation's office building.

The Another Chance program provides education, case management and leadership opportunities, while the youths are employed part time. These young men and women plan to enroll in college, apprentice programs with construction trade unions, various vocational programs, or another field.

Founded in 1988, the Venice Community Housing Corporation's mission is to preserve the economic, racial and social diversity of Venice and the surrounding area, by maximizing affordable housing, economic and community development opportunities and by providing needed social services to low-income residents.

Information, www.vchcorp.org/.