



## Idaho News

### NEW> Hundreds discuss future of Valley's mobile homes

08:20 AM MDT on Friday, May 23, 2008



BY SCOTT EVANS



BOISE - Hundreds showed up to a town hall meeting Thursday to hear and discuss housing challenges facing those who own manufactured homes in the Boise area.

Catholic Charities of Idaho organized the meeting and only expected 100 people to show up – but more than 300 people including trailer owners, property owners and city officials.

Rosio Gonzalez with Catholic Charities of Idaho says there are currently 17 manufactured home communities up for sale in the Treasure Valley.

He says, if they all are sold and converted to other developments -- there is a potential that 800 people would need to move.

Gonzalez says with the meeting helped educate and find solutions to preserve these communities.

"This is a very viable option for affordable housing, and our fear is that we certainly don't want to turn them away and have people who become homeless and community-less because they have no other place to go," Gonzalez said. These are people who are on fixed income."

Real estate broker Gary Bates has sold five manufactured home communities.

Of those five, he says, only one of them converted the land into another development.

Bates says there are 13 more communities he is trying to sell for a single owner who is trying to retire.

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