



MEDIA RELEASE

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Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County starts construction on the Brock-Harris home in Springfield

Volunteers will start the "Blitz Build" on June 6, 2011

Soon, 9-year old Sadie Brock-Harris will have her own bedroom walls on which to hang her Hannah Montana and Moxie Girlz posters. Her mom, Kelly Brock-Harris, is working with Habitat for Humanity to build their new home. For the first time, Sadie and her siblings, 4-year-old Gavin and 3-year-old Zetta, will each have their own room. "Having their own rooms is going to be very exciting for us," Kelly said. But the space a new home will afford them is secondary to other changes it can afford the family. "I want to give them stability," Kelly said. She wants them to "be able to have normal kids' lives."

The new home, located at 809 Knoll Pointe, is located in census tract 16, an area in which The Springfield Project and The Chamber's Q5 initiative have targeted for redevelopment efforts. Primary funding for the house construction is being provided by Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant dollars, secured by The Springfield Project. "Through collaborative partnerships, our community is benefiting from the development of new homes for homeownership in East Springfield," stated Sarah Mackey, executive director of Habitat for Humanity.

Kelly, who lives with her children in her mom's home, is a fulltime student at Benedictine University at Springfield, and is working toward a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Organizational Behavior. She started working with Habitat for Humanity in 2009. She and Sadie are completing 250 hours of sweat equity toward their home. Sweat equity is one of the ways Habitat for Humanity participants take part in the home ownership process. Kelly is looking forward to being an active participant on the build-team for her house. The children are excited about the build, too, and Gavin said he wants to be a construction person when he grows up. He has his hardhat ready and Zetta wants

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her own hammer. Sadie is excited about the family having their own house. “This will be our first house to call home. When the house is done, it will be filled with joy and happiness,” she said.

Kelly said her experience with Habitat for Humanity has been great, and the people there are “like family.” She is thankful for the organization and for the members of the community who are helping her achieve her dream of owning a home.

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County is a community-driven nonprofit organization that develops working partnerships with local businesses, churches, community organizations and other individuals to build simple, decent and affordable housing for all people in need. Since its founding in 1989, Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County has completed 83 houses in Sangamon County and served over 300 individuals in Sangamon County. For more information or to join the efforts to eliminate poverty housing, visit habitatsangamon.com or call 217.523.2710.

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