

MEDIA RELEASE

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Interfaith Build Brings Together Multiple Faiths to Build Habitat Home

Volunteers will start the "Blitz Build" April 19-21

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County announces the start of an Interfaith Build, a project that is intentionally gathering congregations from the Christian, Jewish, Islamic, and Unitarian communities of Sangamon County to join together to build a new affordable home in Springfield.

Members from the congregations are working side by side in the leadership, planning, meal preparation, and construction of Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County's 92nd home. The new home will be at 100 Lakebrook Court in Springfield and the homeowner will be Debbie Weiner. Volunteers have already begun working on the foundation, and the interfaith build volunteers will participate in the blitz build, in which the walls and roof will be erected for the new home from April 19-21.

"This project is bringing together individuals with different religious beliefs, but with the same desire to increase affordable housing in our community," said Sarah Mackey, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County. "Together we are building houses and building hope for families in Sangamon County."

It is expected that over 300 volunteers will participate in the project over the next two months. Interfaith Build partners for the project include Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, Chatham United Methodist Church, Congregation Temple Israel, Douglas Avenue United Methodist Church, Islamic Society, Jewish Federation of Springfield, Temple B'rith Sholom, and Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The new homeowner, Debbie Weiner, says she is excited about the prospect of having plenty of space in her new home. "I love to have people over, but in this tiny little apartment, six people is too many," Weiner says, gesturing around her current apartment. "I'm very excited. Now that I'm getting a house, I'll be able to entertain." The home will also be accessible for Debbie, who lives with Cerebral Palsy.

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County is a community-driven nonprofit organization that develops working partnerships with local businesses, churches, unions, 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 91 houses in Sangamon County and served over 350 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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