

1000 Women Strong-Habitat Sangamon Invites Women to Build Together

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County (HFHSC) has kicked off *1000 Women Strong-Habitat Sangamon*, a unique opportunity to celebrate the strong, amazing women in our lives, have fun, and make our community a better place.

“*1000 Women Strong-Habitat Sangamon* is 1,000 women networking, learning, and providing the funding and muscle to build - not just a house, but long-term stability for a hardworking, low-income family in Sangamon County,” explained HFHSC Executive Director Colleen Stone. “About eighty percent of the families we serve are single moms with children. We’re excited about this campaign that’s bringing women together to build for women.”

Habitat is asking 1,000 women to donate \$100 each, to provide the funding needed to then build a Habitat home together. Each Habitat home requires about \$100,000 in resources to construct. The goal is to secure funding, by August 31, to build in the fall.

“You don’t need to have construction skills to join, even if you plan to build. Lots of us will be learning together,” Stone said. “Some women have joined who aren’t able to physically build, but are still “building” by providing scholarships and encouraging family, friends and co-workers to sign up too.”

While not everyone wants to or is able to build, some are generously providing sponsorships and all are excited about lending a hand up to a family like Shawna Meredith’s.

“I am thrilled to be a homeowner, but even more overjoyed by the freedom and independence Elisia, who uses a wheelchair, has in our new home,” said Meredith. “She has complete access - in the house and out. It’s been life-changing for all of us.”

Meredith renovated her home alongside Habitat volunteers and will be building with *1000 Women Strong-Habitat Sangamon* to end poverty housing and transform another family’s future.

In Sangamon County, over 6,000 families live in poverty housing – housing that is overcrowded, unsafe or unhealthy, or where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing. Under Habitat’s program, partner families are willing to partner with Habitat and must have the ability to pay a zero interest mortgage payment to HFHSC (including property taxes and homeowner insurance). This payment won’t exceed 30% of their gross income after the home is built.

To join *1000 Women Strong-Habitat Sangamon* or for information about HFHSC programs, visit Habitat at 2744 S 6th Street, www.habitatsangamon.com, or contact Shayne Squires at 217-523-2710, ext. 222.

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