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Another Family Home for the Holidays!

Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County Dedicating Home December 21st

Habitat's home ownership program is a partnership; it's a hands-up and hands-on approach that focuses on long-term strength, self-reliance and community wide impact. On Thursday, December 21st, Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County (HFHSC) will celebrate the dedication of another home and the joy of two families achieving success.

Kathy Baxter and her daughter, Brionna, have always lived in rental housing. Her friend suggested she check out the Habitat home ownership program. Once she qualified, both Kathy and Brionna got busy building up the required volunteer hours of service and sweat equity. It's been a three year journey with HFHSC to own a simple, decent, affordable home of their own.

Sabrina Nudo purchased this Habitat home (# 89) in 2013. Like all Habitat Partner Families, prior to owning this home she took classes that included budgeting, taxes, insurance and home maintenance. Now, through hard work and applying the principles she learned, she is able to afford a bigger house through a traditional mortgage.

"Habitat has the first right to purchase a Habitat built home when it becomes available, if Habitat has the funds to purchase it," explained Colleen Stone, HFHSC Executive Director. "Because of the "pay it forward" mortgage pay off system in place, Habitat was able to buy back this house and make it ready for the next family. This is a great example of two families achieving success because our community and generous donors were willing to provide a hand up when they needed it."

Under Habitat's "pay it forward" system, Habitat mortgage payments help pay for another project. Also, when a HFHSC house is paid off, those funds are held to help pay for another Habitat home project. Dick Van Dyke's Appliance World donated the appliances for this home.

"I'm pinching myself, it is so exciting!" Kathy said. "It's hard to put into words how happy we are to be moving into our forever house and not having to worry about moving again. It's a very special Christmas for us and we're thankful for everyone who has helped make our dream come true."

Partner Families in Habitat for Humanity's home ownership program build or complete renovations alongside Habitat volunteers and invest hundreds of "sweat equity" hours. Once a home is completed, the family pays a zero-interest, affordable mortgage, which is invested back into Habitat's program to build more homes and "pay it forward" for other families in need.

"Together, we are helping families escape from unsafe, unhealthy living conditions," said Stone. "We're strengthening our communities and neighborhoods not just today, but for the long-term through affordable housing, additional tax revenues and the stability these help provide."

The Central Illinois Foodbank will also be filling the family's pantry with a week's worth of supplies to get them settled into their new home.



“Our goal is to have the homeowners walk into their new home, sit down, relax, and not have to worry about going to the grocery store right away,” said Pam Molitoris, Central Illinois Foodbank Executive Director. “We’re excited to continue this partnership with Habitat for Humanity.”

The public is invited to attend this home dedication on December 21st, 5 p.m., at 2228 East Enterprise in Grandview. For more information or to join the efforts to eliminate poverty housing, visit <http://www.habitatsangamon.com/> or call 217.523.2710.

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