

Habitat House #108 Kickoff Celebration April 16!

Sharrell is grateful for all she has learned from Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County's homeownership program, the Habitat family nurturer who has been there for her, and the outpouring of support she received recently when her rental home was destroyed by an electrical fire. After completing Habitat education classes, putting in the requisite volunteer hours, and volunteering on homes for other Habitat families, Sharrell Johnson is about to realize a life-long dream—a home of her own thanks to the *1000 Women Strong-Habitat Sangamon* campaign.

Please join us for the Kickoff Celebration on Monday, April 16, 5 pm, at Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County (HFHSC) at 2744 S. 6th Street in Springfield. It's an opportunity to learn more about this build and meet Sharrell Johnson, a determined, single mother who works two jobs and is completing an on-line college program, so she can make a better life for her sons, Rashad, 13 and Christian, 6.

"The 1000 Women Strong-Habitat Sangamon campaign asked women to fund and build a Habitat house and that's what we're doing," said Executive Director Colleen Stone. "It's so exciting to have so many women, generous donors and neighbors coming alongside Sharrell and her sons to build not just "a house," but decent, affordable housing that is strengthening lives and neighborhoods for the long-term."

In addition to 1000 Women Strong-Habitat Sangamon members, generous sponsors Steve Koch of Koch, Sylvia and Associates Ameriprise Financial Services, Wells Fargo, M.G. Nelson Family Foundation, Mike & Beth O'Shea, In memory of Shirley Quirk, Roberta and Robert Kay, Collins Plumbing, Heating & Cooling, Inc., Carpet Weavers, Duggins Design, Springfield Plastics, Inc., Hickory Point Bank, Pam Hargan, Linda Jones, Heartland Credit Union, Katherine Germeraad, and The Women of Carrollton Bank are making this Habitat home possible.

Habitat homeownership is not free. It is a hand up for hard-working families like Sharrell's. Once the home is completed, she will pay a zero percent interest mortgage (provided by Habitat), property taxes and home insurance.

Sharrell didn't imagine she could own a home until she found Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County and was accepted into the work/build program. Currently, her family is living in temporary housing following extensive damage and being displaced by the fire. Construction is underway where Sharrell said the location, in central Springfield, is ideal for her family because it's close to schools and in a pretty, established neighborhood with mature trees. "It feels just right," she said.

For more information about the Kickoff on April 16 or to join the efforts to eliminate poverty housing, visit <http://www.habitatsangamon.com> or call 217.523.2710. Habitat for Humanity is currently recruiting volunteers for this and future Habitat projects in Sangamon County.

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