



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Their life is going to change:” Habitat Waukesha Dedicated Homes to Two Families on Saturday

Waukesha, Wis. – Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County held a double home-dedication ceremony for two families on Saturday. Both new homeowners, Irene and Brigitte, are single mothers of three children.

Irene is grateful to have a place of her own where her children can grow up. “To me it’s like a dream come true but it’s not thinking about me” she says. “It’s thinking about my kids.” Despite working at the same company for 16 years, she had not been able to purchase a home with a traditional mortgage.

Brigitte is excited to have a permanent home for her family, which has moved as often as four times in one year. In fact, one of the places they lived several years ago is just around the block from their new home and nearby is the house where Brigitte grew up.

“This is the pinnacle of months of work,” said Diane McGeen, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County. “Their life is going to change once they own a home so it makes it so exciting.”

About 85 people attended the dedication, including volunteers who worked on the homes, Habitat staff and board members, other Habitat families, and family and friends of the new homeowners. Mayor Shawn Reilly, Alderman Erik Helgestad, and Suzanne Kelley from the Waukesha County Business Alliance also attended and welcomed the families to the neighborhood and their new homes.

Like all Habitat homeowners, Irene and Brigitte each contributed 250 hours of “sweat equity” working on the construction of their homes. They also participated in educational programs to help to ensure their success as new homeowners. They will make monthly payments on a low-cost mortgage, which in turn will go toward building more Habitat homes in Waukesha County.

Following a blessing of the homes and a ribbon cutting, attendees were invited to join the families in celebrating with cake, Irene’s homemade tamales and a tour of the homes.

In total, 487 volunteers contributed 8,589 hours working on the two homes. RiverGlen Christian Church was a major financial sponsor of the Bethesda home project. Members from the church community also helped build the homes, volunteering 21 times. Milwaukee Tool employees volunteered five times, and the company donated thousands of dollars’ worth of tools to Habitat Waukesha. Habitat relies on donations and volunteers to build their homes.

The two-unit condo is the final of eight Habitat homes in the Dunbar Oaks neighborhood, a project begun in 2010 in partnership between Habitat, the City of Waukesha, and other builders. The site of the former YWCA is now home to 14 families, including nearly 40 children.

About Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County

Since 1989, Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County has addressed the lack of affordable housing in our area by providing decent homes with an affordable mortgage to help lower-income families obtain self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty. Habitat partner families help build their home alongside volunteers and make regular mortgage payments. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, you can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, please visit www.habitatwaukesha.org.

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