

Habitat for Humanity home dedicated

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CLEAR LAKE — Jeanette Harthan and her sons, John and Luke, will spend this Christmas in a new home that's all their own thanks to Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa.

Jeanette Harthan received the keys to the home at the conclusion of a dedication ceremony Sunday.

Moving day is Saturday, she said.

"We're so excited. We have been waiting for this for a while so we're excited," she said.

"We feel really blessed to have so many friends and family who have helped us."

Harthan is a single mother. She said the home will mean everything for Luke, 9 and John, 11.

"It's their home. It's where they can play and have fun. This is all for them."

A Christmas tree already sits in the corner of the living room of the three-bedroom home on Pine Brooke Drive in Clear Lake.

This is the 33rd Habitat For Humanity home built in North Iowa and the first built in Clear Lake in nearly 10 years.

Luke, 9, likes his tan bedroom.

"They did a pretty good job and I like it," he said.

Eleven-year-old John's room is red, white and blue.

"It will be fun spending our first night here," John said.

The dedication ceremony included prayers by Pastor Randy Vaage of Clear Lake Evangelical Free Church, blessing of the kitchen, entryway, living room and bedrooms, and presentation of gifts to the family including a Bible, quilt, embroidery sampler and bucket full of cleaning supplies.

Melissa Schoneberg, executive director for Habitat for Humanity for North Central Iowa, said the donation of a building lot by Tim Stenberg and Joshua Homes Inc. made it possible for Habitat to build in Clear Lake.

More Habitat homes have not been built in Clear Lake because of the cost of property. The organization typically pays less than \$10,000 for building lots.

"This is a chance to celebrate everybody's efforts," Schoneberg said.

"We were working hard to get her in by the holidays."