

New Family Becomes Proud Homeowners with Habitat for Humanity

Mason City, December 12, 2008: Despite a national mortgage crisis and economic downturn, a new family became proud homeowners Thursday night through the local Habitat for Humanity program. Beckie Elbert and her sons, Nathan and Christian, excitedly accepted the keys to their new home during a well-attended Dedication Service and Open House.

The Elbert home was constructed through a partnership between Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and Wells Fargo Bank. Thrivent Financial contributed nearly \$60,000 towards this build, the third home in a row they have sponsored locally. Wells Fargo Bank Foundation contributed \$17,000, the fourth local home they have sponsored in a row. Local Lutheran churches, Thrivent members, NIACC Building Trades students, and other various volunteer groups supplied the labor to build this home.

“Habitat for Humanity is a bright spot in this gloomy economy,” said Bill Burdick, Board President of Habitat for Humanity NCI. “It provides hope and love to families in helping them secure a safe, warm, and beautiful home to live as a family. The love of a community is felt as many come together to raise finances, construct the home, and bond in the cause of helping others. Working with Habitat for Humanity is truly one of the Christian actions that we can all participate in and help serve the Lord during the holidays and all year round.”

Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa partners with families to build simple, decent, affordable housing. The homes are sold to partner families at no profit with zero-interest mortgages and each adult family member contributes 250 hours of “sweat equity” to help build their home and others.

“We received a lot more out of this whole process than we ever expected,” said Elbert. “Not only did we gain a beautiful home to live in, but we also grew our circle of friends and family with the wonderful people that have helped us along this life-changing journey.”

To date, Habitat for Humanity NCI has built 31 homes throughout its six county service area, and hopes to provide five more families with homeownership opportunities during the upcoming year if the funds allow. For more information about investing in future builds or becoming a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity NCI contact the office at 641-424-8978.

About Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa

*Habitat for Humanity is a not-for-profit ecumenical, Christian housing ministry that utilizes volunteer labor and donations to build simple, decent, affordable houses for families who would otherwise be unable to afford home ownership. The homes are sold to qualified families with 0 % interest loans and 1% down. Habitat also runs a **ReStore** home improvement outlet that sells new and used building materials donated by area individuals, contractors, and businesses. **1411 South Taft Ave., Mason City, Iowa 50401, 641-424-8978, www.habitatnci.org** Now serving: Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, Winnebago, Worth and Wright counties.*