

Habitat house is family's dream

By RICHARD JOHNSON, richard.johnson@globegazette.com | Posted: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 12:00 am

MASON CITY — Trenda Roppe met many new friends when work began almost a year ago on her Habitat for Humanity home.

Volunteers came from Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa, Best Buy, Target, Wal-Mart, several churches, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, North Iowa Area Community College Building Trades students, the NIACC volleyball team — and a family reunion.

Many returned Monday for an open house and dedication at the home on Mason City's north side.

They crowded in and offered congratulations as Roppe tried to hold back tears.

"It's very exciting to come to the end," she said. "It'll just be much nicer. We'll have more room. It's nice to know we're going to be buying this house."

"We're really glad for them," said Melissa Schoneberg, executive director of Habitat for Humanity NCI. "They really deserve this house. I think they'll be a nice addition to our Habitat family."

Roppe and her daughters Kayla Schade, 8, and Harley Schade, 9, can leave their cramped two-bedroom rental house this week in favor of the bright, roomy new energy-efficient digs.

It's the second Habitat home built in the Gooch Park neighborhood on North Pennsylvania Avenue.

The lot was donated to Habitat by the late Alan Dodge and his wife, Margaret, in 2007.

"The generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Dodge and others like them are fundamental to our mission," said HFHNCI board President Bill Burdick. "We truly value the thoughtfulness of our donors and volunteers throughout the community."

Habitat for Humanity NCI has given 36 families the chance to own their own homes in Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, Winnebago, Worth and Wright counties since 1994.

Construction is planned this summer for homes in Belmond and Mason City.

Call 641-424-8978 or see www.habitatnci.org for information about tax-deductible contributions, volunteering, or applying for a home.