

## **HABITAT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP**

*Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa is seeking partner families in need to provide them with affordable, decent housing for purchase this upcoming year.*

Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa is now accepting applications from hardworking families in need who are ready to become homeowners. Families chosen to partner with Habitat have demonstrated their ability to make regular monthly payments, however are not able to obtain traditional financing through a bank. Habitat homeownership opportunities are available for three families in Mason City beginning this summer, as well as for one in Hampton beginning later this year. Applicants are chosen on a first-come, first-serve basis - so interested families are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to be considered for these current opportunities.

Families selected to work with Habitat for Humanity must meet three requirements: they must have a need, be willing to partner with Habitat, and have the ability to pay. Need is defined as a family living in a home with structural or service inadequacies, living in overcrowded conditions, being financially burdened in comparison with their monthly income and are unable to get a traditional mortgage. Willingness to partner is defined as working with Habitat on the construction or rehabilitation of homes, as well as assisting in the office, ReStore and with Habitat events. Each member of the family 18 years or older will be expected to complete 250 hours of 'sweat equity' before the completion of their home. The final criteria is that each family must have an income that falls between 30% and 60% of the median income for our service area – for example, a family of four must have an annual income between \$17,640 and \$35,280 to qualify. Families purchase the home from Habitat through a 0% interest-free loan and minimum of a 1% down payment.

Though Habitat has immediate homeownership opportunities in Mason City and Hampton, applicants from all communities in our service area will be considered. To request an application or to make a donation to support Habitat's efforts, please call Habitat for Humanity NCI at (641) 424-8978 or visit the website at [www.habitatnci.org](http://www.habitatnci.org).

### ***About Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa***

*Habitat for Humanity NCI 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 1% down and 0% interest loans. Habitat also operates a ReStore, a home improvement discount outlet that sells new and gently used merchandise to the public in which the proceeds support the home builds. 1411 South Taft Ave., Mason City, Iowa 50401, 641-424-8978, [www.habitatnci.org](http://www.habitatnci.org) Serving: Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, Winnebago, Worth and Wright counties.*