

Ground broken for Habitat for Humanity home

By RICHARD JOHNSON

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MASON CITY — A symbolic groundbreaking was held Monday for a new Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa home at Seventh Street Southeast and South Pennsylvania Avenue in Mason City.

Habitat will partner with the North Iowa Area Community College Building Trades department to build the 1,300-square-foot, four-bedroom home.

Mark Kroemer of Waggoner & Wineinger Architects in Mason City donated his time as project architect.

"We're very excited and grateful to have the opportunity," NIACC Building Trades instructor Gregg Helmich said. "And this is a great group of students. They're ready to get going. It helps the community, so that's a big plus."

The house — the 37th to be built by Habitat NCI in its six-county area — is being built for Suzanne Ford and her children Collin, 7, Tyler, 6, Evan, 4, and Madeline, 4.

"I'm just standing here really proud," said Ford, a nursing student at NIACC. "I'm really humbled by it."

"We're just really excited," Habitat for Humanity NCI Executive Director Melissa Schoneberg said. "Suzanne and her family are a wonderful pick for Habitat."

It's hoped the home and



BRYON HOULGRAVE/The Globe Gazette

Collin Ford, 7, leads the groundbreaking ceremony on Monday at the site of the future Ford family home, the latest project by Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa. Suzanne Ford and her four children will move to the new home from Clear Lake.

another Habitat home to be built at Sixth Street Southwest and South Tyler Avenue can be completed next spring.

Groundbreaking is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 30, for the Tyler Avenue home.

Habitat needs volunteers to help build the homes and to help Habitat staff salvage items from

flood-damaged homes for the Habitat ReStore.

The ReStore, at 1411 S. Taft Ave. (on Commercial Park Road), refurbishes and sells new and gently-used household items at discount prices.

Call Habitat at 641-424-8978, or the ReStore at 423-1688 or see www.habitatnci.org for more information

Guidelines for Habitat for Humanity homes

Candidates for Habitat for Humanity homes must need adequate shelter, be able to make low monthly payments toward a zero percent interest loan and be willing to contribute 250 hours of sweat equity per adult member, along with friends and family, to help build their home and others.

Applicant families also must fall between 30 and 60 percent of the median income for our service area. A family of four must earn between \$16,350 and \$43,600.

Call Habitat for Humanity NCI at 641-424-8978 for an application or to support these "builds" with volunteer time or donations.