

## Informational Open House Scheduled for Habitat for Humanity

*June 11, 2009, Forest City:* Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa will be hosting an informational Open House on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> from 4-6:00pm at 725 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. All community members are welcome and refreshments will be served.

This Habitat home was completed in January of 2005, and was built by dedicated community volunteers through major grants from the Lion's Club International Foundation, the Hanson Family Foundation, MBT, as well as various other local contributions from area individuals and businesses. Unfortunately the home became vacant in the fall of 2007 due to unfortunate family circumstances, and the house was turned back over to Habitat the following year. Habitat has been searching for another Partner Family that would be a good fit for the home ever since.

"It is a wonderful home and really needs a good family to occupy it," said Bill Burdick, Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa Board President. "It is a large, handicap accessible home that would be a great find for a family in need of these unique amenities."

The Open House will be a chance for any interested parties to see the home, as well as learn more about the Habitat for Humanity program.

**Habitat for Humanity selects partner families based on three criteria: Need, Willingness to Partner and Ability to Pay. Families living in structurally unsafe, overcrowded or prohibitively expensive rent may qualify as having need. Each adult over 18 years old who will be living in a Habitat Home is required to complete 250 hours of 'sweat equity'. These hours are comprised of attending homeownership classes, building Habitat homes, and working in the ReStore. Families who make between 30% and 60% of medium income and are not able to qualify for a traditional mortgage are encouraged to apply.**

This year is the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Habitat for Humanity NCI, and to date 34 homes have been built throughout its six county service area. For more information about investing in future builds, applying for a Habitat home, becoming a volunteer, or for information on the ReStore, contact the office at 641-424-8978 or visit [www.habitatnci.org](http://www.habitatnci.org).

### ***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 discount outlet selling 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](http://www.habitatnci.org) Now serving: Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, Winnebago, Worth and Wright counties.*