

## A Father's Day Gift to Remember

A Mason City father and son are hard at work this Father's Day remodeling and restoring one of the first Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa houses in Cerro Gordo County — and looking forward to the day they will call it home.

Chris Hjelmgren and his son Christopher, 11, have been flood victims four times, most recently in June 2008 in Mason City, when their basement filled with 8 feet of water. When he applied for Habitat housing, his request was simple: "My only requirement is that I asked not to have a house near the river," Chris said.

"Not a problem," said Melissa Schoneberg, Executive Director of Habitat NCI. "We think we have the perfect fit for you."

The all volunteer Family Selection Committee voted Chris and his son as the perfect fit for a two-story, three-bedroom, split-level Habitat home built in Mason City 14 years ago. The home was donated back to the organization recently from the previous Habitat family when they moved down to Des Moines with a job transfer.

It needed some fixing up, but Chris was willing to tackle that challenge and has been putting in his required 250 hours of "sweat equity" at the house, as well as helping on other Habitat builds and at the ReStore.

Chris, a manager at Subway, also fixes computers and electronics. If all goes as planned, he and Christopher will move into a dry home — far from any rivers — late this fall.

### ***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.*