

Habitat Home Needs a New Family

July 21, 2009, Forest City: A Habitat home built with a lot of love and dedication from community volunteers is now searching for new occupants. This home was completed in January of 2005, and was sponsored through grants from the Lion's Club International Foundation, local Lion's Clubs, the Hanson Family Foundation, Manufacturer's Bank & Trust, as well as various other businesses and individual Habitat donors. Regrettably, the home became vacant in the fall of 2007 due to unfortunate family circumstances, and 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."

Habitat for Humanity North Central Iowa will be hosting an informational Open House on Friday, July 24th from 4-6:00pm on site at 725 South 7th Avenue. 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 the following three criteria: their "need" for housing, their "willingness to partner," and their "ability to pay" for the home. Families living in structurally unsafe or overcrowded homes, or who are paying prohibitively expensive rent, may qualify as having a 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 activities such as attending homeownership and budgeting classes, building Habitat homes, and working in the Habitat ReStore. Habitat families purchase the homes with low monthly payments and a 0% interest loan. Families who make between 30% and 60% of the area medium income, and are not able to qualify for a traditional mortgage, are encouraged to apply.

This year marks the 15th Anniversary for Habitat for Humanity NCI, and to date 32 homes have been built throughout the six county service area. For more information about how to support Habitat, to apply for a Habitat home, or for information on the ReStore, contact the Habitat office at 641-424-8978 or visit 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
Now serving: Cerro Gordo, Franklin, Hancock, Winnebago, Worth and Wright counties.*