



# Press Release

Walworth County Habitat for Humanity

Teresa McKeown Executive Director

262-949-0542

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Walworth County Habitat for Humanity announces plans to build its twelfth home in the Elkhorn area.

" We are excited to be building for the first time in the Elkhorn area, and have been met with encouragement from members of the community." Stated Teresa McKeown, Executive Director.

Previous HFH homes have been built in Delavan, Genoa City, Lake Geneva, Pell Lake and Whitewater.

Eight Elkhorn area churches are partnering with Habitat for Humanity to build the home. They are Bethel United Methodist, Community Church of Elkhorn, First Congregational United Church of Christ, First United Methodist Church, and St. John's in the Wilderness Episcopal Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Patrick's Catholic Church and Sugar Creek Lutheran Church. The churches will provide the volunteer labor to help build the home scheduled to start in March of 2009. Each church will have a Habitat committee to coordinate volunteer services. In addition to building, the Church representatives are organizing fundraising events to help with the cost of building the home.

The average price of a new home in Walworth County is around \$192,000. Walworth County Habitat for Humanity is able to build a home for around \$80,000 to \$100,000 depending on the size of the home and the building materials and services donated.

"There is a stigma that Habitat for Humanity gives away homes to needy families. This is not true." Said McKeown

Each family must be in a low-income bracket and financially responsible to buy the home. Habitat is able to sell the home at the cost of building it and then carries the homeowner's 30-year mortgage at 0% interest. The family pays the annual property tax and homeowners insurance. Adult family members must put



in 250 hours of build time and pay a small down payment, they must also attend a homeowner's workshop and financial management class sponsored by the Walworth County Community Action Coalition.

"When a community welcomes a Habitat family, they are welcoming good neighbors, responsible homeowners, and family orientated citizens. Habitat simply creates an opportunity to become homeowners and lift families out of poverty housing.

The process for a group of citizen volunteers to choose the next recipient family of the Habitat home has begun. The Family Selection and Support Team will be announcing an orientation and application session at a future date through local newspapers.

Walworth County Habitat for Humanity has begun it's fundraising efforts to build the home also. Costs of building a home include the purchase of a lot, hiring licensed contractors for the heating, plumbing and electrical work, and purchasing the building materials that aren't already donated.

"We need Walworth County residents and businesses help with this. We can't carry out our mission to end poverty housing and homelessness for families in Walworth County without the generosity of our people. " McKeown said.

To donate to Walworth County Habitat for Humanity, checks may be sent to:

PO Box 174, Lake Geneva, WI 53147, or call 262-949-0542.