



*Building homes,
building community
building hope*

MEDIA ALERT

Habitat for Humanity to Build In Belle Plaine

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Belle Plaine, Iowa (August 7, 2009) – **The groundbreaking for the first-ever Habitat home to be built in Belle Plaine will occur at 6:30 p.m. on August 18, 2009.** The event is open to the public. Construction will begin September 11 at 408 11th Street in Belle Plaine and continue on Saturdays, as well as some weekdays, through the end of October. This is the second home the Benton County chapter of Cedar Valley Habitat has built. The first home was completed in Vinton, Iowa.

“We are so blessed to have such great work happening throughout Linn and Benton counties,” said Jeff Capps, executive director of Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity. “Our Benton County chapter is passionate about helping families achieve their dreams of homeownership, and we’re so grateful to have many folks supporting them in that.”

Habitat homes are generally sponsored by local faith-based groups, businesses, foundations and civic organizations. Sponsor support covers the upfront construction costs required to build the home. Costs are kept low through the use of volunteer labor and some donated materials. Major sponsors on this fall’s Belle Plaine home include Bank Iowa, the Benton County Community Foundation, the City of Belle Plaine and Garling Construction. For more information about additional sponsorship opportunities, contact Kathy Jacobsen at (319) 446-7358.

Next Wednesday’s groundbreaking will be an exciting day, particularly for the new partner family, which was pre-selected and has been working toward homeownership for months. Habitat families are qualified and selected based on their need for simple, decent and affordable housing; their ability to pay back a zero-interest home loan; and their willingness to partner with Habitat by completing hundreds of hours of “sweat equity” and basic homebuyer classes.

“Habitat offers a hand-up, not a hand out,” Capps said. “We aim to present an extraordinary opportunity for partner families who desire to be homeowners, but can’t qualify for a conventional loan. It’s a self-help solution, and it works! I’m hopeful that the good people of Belle Plaine and Benton County will support this great effort that’s happening in their very own backyard.”

For more information or to sign up directly for volunteer opportunities, please contact the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity office at (319) 366-4485, Doug Goodsell at (319) 227-6225, Kathy Jacobsen at (319) 446-7358, email volunteer@cvhabitat.org or visit cvhabitat.org.

About Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity

Cedar Valley Habitat works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which people can live and grow into all that God intended. Since 1988, Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated 79 homes. Its most recent project was the construction of 20 homes in Cedar Rapids, as part of the 2009 AmeriCorps Build-a-Thon. For more information, visit www.cvhabitat.org.

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