



Building homes,
building community
building hope

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat for Humanity to Dedicate Belle Plaine Home

Contact: Bea Flodeen, Program Manager, (319) 366-4485, beaflodeen@cvhabitat.org

Cedar Rapids, Iowa (October 20, 2009) – **An open house for the first-ever Habitat for Humanity home built in Belle Plaine will occur from 6-8 p.m. and the home dedication will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2009 at 408 - 11th Street in Belle Plaine.** These events are open to the public. This is the second home the Benton County chapter of Cedar Valley Habitat has built. The first home was completed in Vinton, Iowa.

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 included Bank Iowa, the Benton County Community Foundation, the City of Belle Plaine and Garling Construction.

Major construction began on the Belle Plaine home on Friday, September 11. Over the past six weeks, more than 250 group and individual volunteers, led by a core of dedicated volunteer leaders, have been involved in the effort. Volunteers from across Benton and Linn Counties participated in a variety of construction tasks, including framing, roofing, interior trim work, painting and landscaping.

"We have a great team of leaders in Benton County. They are passionate about our mission and believe that the homeownership opportunities provided through Habitat should be extended to folks throughout our service area," said Jeff Capps, executive director of Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity. "We are so thankful for that commitment. Seeing a build happen this quickly, and with so much enthusiasm, is a reminder of the power we possess to affect major change in the lives of families, when the Habitat machine is set into motion!"

October 30 will be an exciting day, especially for the new partner family, who was pre-selected and has been working toward homeownership. 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 a series of basic homebuyer classes.

For more information, please contact the Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity office at (319) 366-4485 or cvhinfo@cvhabitat.org. Benton County contacts are Doug Goodsell at (319) 227-6225 and Kathy Jacobsen at (319) 446-7358. For more information about recent and ongoing initiatives of Cedar Valley Habitat, please visit cvhabitat.org.

725 North Center Point Road
Hiawatha, Iowa 52233
Phone: (319) 366-4485
Fax: (319) 363-9722
www.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 intends. Since 1988, Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated 80 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.