



On World Habitat Day, schools unveil the next generation of Habitat Future Builders.

Winnipeg, MB, October 4, 2010 –The United Nations declares the first Monday of every October to be “World Habitat Day”—a day to call worldwide attention to the dire need for affordable housing for all, and a time to remind everyone of our collective responsibility for the future of human habitat. Today, Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg (HFHW) unveiled its new Habitat school program at Dakota Collegiate to create awareness and motivate a younger generation of its responsibility now and into the future.

“The program is aimed at two age groups, grade 3 to 7 and high school students,” says Kim Wilson HFHW Director of Fund Development. “Habitat is assisting grade 3-7 teachers by providing classroom activities and resources that relate to their curriculum. The teachers can use the interactive lesson plans to help students learn about the need in our community, Habitat’s role, and in some cases, how they can help. http://www.habitat.mb.ca/teachers_loggedin.cfm User ID: Habitat4, Password: Humanity (*Please do not publicize the login information*)

High Schools take the program one step further by forming their own High Schools for Habitat for Humanity Club (3H Club), interacting with one another by cooperatively participating in educational, volunteerism, and fundraising opportunities. The students then become empowered to promote awareness in communities and address the important social justice issue of poverty housing. Kirsty Dunlop, a teacher at Dakota Collegiate came to Habitat with the idea of creating a club and took the initiative to develop the program. “We thought it was important to put a school program together that creates opportunities for student involvement through easy access to materials in one place on the Habitat website. We hope this format will encourage many high schools to create a 3H club,” says Dunlop.

http://habitat.mb.ca/schools_3H.html

The need for safe, decent, affordable housing is overwhelming as there are 125,000 Manitobans living in poverty. Rental vacancy rates in urban centres across Manitoba are reaching all time lows as more and more families are living in unsafe, overcrowded, expensive, or substandard accommodations. Those most likely in need are single parent families, persons with disabilities, aboriginal families, and immigrants.

Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg serves an important need in our community by removing barriers to homeownership for families who are in financially vulnerable circumstances, but are otherwise motivated to improve their situation. Over 500 families in need contact Habitat every year. Those accepted into partnership must meet the following basic criteria: a demonstrated need for housing, ability to pay a mortgage, and willingness to partner with HFHW and our sponsors.

Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg is a local affiliate of an international non-profit registered charity committed to eliminating poverty housing and dedicated to making safe, decent and affordable housing for purchase by low income working families.

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