

Habitat annual Blitz Build underway at Riverbend Suburb

Winnipeg, MB, July 9, 2012 – After three consecutive years of staging the Habitat Blitz Build at the Sir Sam Steele location at Nairn Avenue and Chester Street, Habitat for Humanity Manitoba (HFHM) crews and volunteers head to the 'burbs' of Riverbend at the entrance of North Main and Fernbank.

“It’s a great piece of unused and under-utilized property and with the demand so great for affordable housing, there was great cooperation from the City of Winnipeg for us to help fill that ongoing need,” says Sandy Hopkins, Habitat for Humanity Manitoba CEO. “These homes will once again be built to the highest quality standards and likely be the most energy efficient homes in the nearby surrounding area. “

Starting today, the annual HFHM Blitz Build is the showcase event that sees hundreds of passionate volunteers and work crews offering their hands and hearts. In just 12 days, four side by side units (eight homes) will rise from the already completed foundations to be fully enclosed. It is a huge attraction for supporters seeing the community working together, full of spirit and passion for a great cause.

The build site’s homes will exceed the Power Smart Gold standard and incorporate many other sustainable features. “The energy and water efficiency of all these homes not only makes them environmentally friendly but also more affordable by reducing the daily living costs for our low-income working families,” says Sandy Hopkins, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Winnipeg.

Habitat families are able to pay full market value for their homes due to the Habitat business model that requires no down payment while including interest-free mortgages. Monthly payments are set at 25 percent of a family’s income further adding to the affordability. The homeowners become a habitat partner family by contributing 350-500 hours of sweat equity, helping build their own home, other homes or working at the Habitat office or ReStore.

The site when completed in two years, will be home to 10 side by side units (20 homes) making for a pleasant entrance into the suburb, replacing an unsightly and unkempt strip of land.