



## MEDIA INVITE AND NEWS RELEASE

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### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY MANITOBA PARTNERS WITH ROCKWOOD INSTITUTION TO BUILD A HOME IN WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Manitoba, December 18, 2013 –

Habitat for Humanity Manitoba completed its 270th build and will be presenting the keys to a Habitat family that has purchased this home on **December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 713 Herbert Avenue at 11:00 am**. This home was built on the Rockwood Institution grounds by inmates under professional supervision and moved into Winnipeg as a part of the first of its kind partnership with Corrections Canada and Habitat for Humanity Manitoba.

*“We are very proud of our partnership with the Rockwood Institution. This program provides countless hours of skilled labor that assists Habitat in our efforts to be innovative and fiscally responsible as well providing inmates the opportunity to get a second chance at life as they integrate back into society with trade related job skills. This, for some, is their first job they have ever held. The program provides these men opportunity, pride, and purpose.”*, says Sandy Hopkins, CEO.

In June 2012 Habitat Manitoba and Correctional Service of Canada entered into a partnership creating an MOU to build RTM homes which led to the Federal Government funding \$125,000 to build the first home on the grounds of Rockwood Institute. As a part of the project, inmates learned valuable trade skills in framing, dry walling, painting, roofing and finishing.

Eligible inmates were offered a Work Release Program where they reintegrated with the outside world on Habitat build sites under supervised conditions.

Inmates worked alongside other volunteers while further advancing their construction skills for future employment opportunities upon release. Once an inmate is paroled, they can apply to be a part of the step program with Habitat Manitoba that assists in their integration back into society.

To date, Habitat Manitoba has partnered with over 30 offenders to take part in the Work Release Project.

Correctional Service of Canada is an integral part of the success of this program and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Habitat for Humanity Canada encouraging all affiliates within close proximity to a minimum security facility to partner with the inmates on the build site and in the ReStore.

## Confirmed Attendees

- Elizabeth Van Allen, Acting Regional Deputy Commissioner, Correctional Service Canada
- Mary-Lou Thevenot, CORCAN Regional Director, Prairie Region
- Robert Bonnefoy, Warden, Stony Mountain Institution
- Mike Pollmann, Warden, Rockwood Institution
- Connie Johannson, Deputy Warden, Rockwood Institution
- Penny Molotkin, CORCAN Operations Manager, Stony Mountain / Rockwood Institution
- Shannon Plowman, Assistant Warden, Rockwood Institution
- James Bezan, MP, Selkirk – Interlake
- Thomas Steen, City Councilor
- Sean Nason, Constituency Manager for Lawrence Toet

We will offer interviews after the Key Ceremony at approximately 11:40 am. Abdou, Father of the family will be available however we request that no photos of his wife be taken as this is a religious request from the family. First names will only be allowed with the address being excluded from all media coverage. There will also be inmates in attendance; they can be interviewed but no photos please.

You will receive a press kit on arrival. Please sign in when arriving.

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