



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:

Pamela Breault, Director of Operations
Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex
519-969-3762 ext. 229
226-788-9435 cell
pbreault@habitatwindsor.org

Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex Celebrates 125 Homes Built, Restored and Renovated

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Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex (HFHWE) welcomed the community to celebrate the dedication of two homes, the ground-breaking of one home, and their new homeowners in Sandwich Town. The ceremony took place at historic Mackenzie Hall and was followed by open houses hosted by the new homeowners after their first look at their safe, affordable, brand-new homes. Attendees also received maps showing past HFHWE home builds in Sandwich Town allowing them to walk or drive by – as a nod to HFHWE’s past, present and future impact in the neighbourhood over the organization’s 30-year history.

With addresses from local politicians, partners, Habitat representatives, and the new homeowners themselves, these families were welcomed home to Historic Sandwich Town.

In March of 2023, the Government of Canada and Habitat for Humanity Canada announced an additional \$25 million investment to build 500 new affordable homes across Canada over the next three years. This brings the total federal investment in Habitat for Humanity to \$80.8 million through the Government of Canada’s Affordable Housing Fund.

Since 2019, the Government of Canada has made a total funding commitment of \$884,000 through the Affordable Housing Fund under the National Housing Strategy towards Habitat Windsor-Essex projects, including these homes. This funding commitment includes a Black Families Funding investment of \$286,000.

“We’re working together with organizations like Habitat for Humanity to make sure every Canadian has access to affordable housing they can proudly call home,” said Irek Kusmierczyk, Member of Parliament for Windsor—Tecumseh, on behalf of the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities. “Today’s announcement shows how strong partnerships in the housing sector can lead

to positive change. As we open the doors to these new homes and break ground on another, I extend my warmest wishes to the families starting their journeys as homeowners.”

“Habitat’s model is unlike any other affordable housing option,” states Justin Fox, Board Chair, HFHWE. “Families work with Habitat to build their own homes and purchase them through a mortgage that is geared to their income. This allows families to build equity for their future and helps reverse the cycle of poverty,” Fox adds.

“We are very pleased that our continued Partnership on these build projects, with Build Sponsor, BK Cornerstone has been such a great success,” says Fiona Coughlin, CEO, HFHWE. “The housing crisis is a monumental challenge. Partnership and collaboration are the keys to tackling this challenge,” Coughlin adds.

Today, Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex (HFHWE) invited the media and public to attend ceremonies for three incredible families; two families whose homes are complete, and one that is just getting started.

Ramazzani, Jeannette and their five vibrant daughters, aged 7 months to 11 years, have endured the hardships of residing in a deteriorating rental unit plagued by mold, on a bustling street where safety is a constant concern.

As the family eagerly anticipates moving into their very own safe, affordable, newly constructed home, their hearts overflow with the promise of what this new chapter will bring. For their five young daughters, it means more than just a roof over their heads—it means a sanctuary where laughter can echo freely and dreams can take flight.

Muhammad and Attiya serve as a testament to the power of dedication, perseverance, and the unwavering pursuit of a brighter future for their two university aged children. For over two decades, Muhammad has been a dedicated employee at a communications company. Alongside him, Attiya, works part-time at a local school specializing in support for children and youth with disabilities, and brings compassion and care to her role each day.

Despite their unwavering dedication to their professions, the dream of homeownership has remained elusive for this family. The soaring costs of safe and affordable rentals have placed this dream just out of reach, casting a shadow of uncertainty over their future. Yet, amidst these challenges, they’ve remained undeterred, channeling their efforts into what matters most: the education and well-being of their children.

Kashindi and Adolphine along with their six active children are a large, happy family. With three boys and three girls, their very small rental is always bustling with activity. Focused on academics and athletics, Kashindi and Adolphine are excited for the prospect of the stability of homeownership that will allow their children to focus all of their energy on their studies and activities.

This family of eight is eagerly anticipating moving into their brand new, five-bedroom home in Spring of next year.

Habitat for Humanity Windsor Essex

Founded in 1994, Habitat for Humanity Windsor-Essex is a non-profit community service organization working for a world where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. Our mission is to mobilize volunteers and community partners in building affordable housing and promoting home ownership as a means to breaking the cycle of poverty. For more information, please visit www.habitatwindsor.org

Sofia Ouslis

Office of the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

sofia.ouslis@infcc.gc.ca