

Habitat for Humanity Kicks off the First Quarter with Strong Community Relationships

The first quarter of the year has seen the Las Vegas affiliate of the international charity Habitat for Humanity build homes as well as strengthen relationships in the community. This has helped the non-profit move even closer to its ultimate goal of eliminating poverty housing and homelessness from the face of the earth by constructing and building adequate and basic housing.

So far this year, Habitat for Humanity has seven homes on track for families who otherwise would have to live in substandard housing.

“The driving force behind the organization is its volunteers – those who contribute a day, a week, a few months, to give Habitat’s vision a tangible form,” said Susan Mackert, executive director for the Habitat for Humanity Las Vegas affiliate.

As part of Sunrise Hospital’s 45th anniversary celebration and commemoration of National Make-a-Difference Day, an estimated 100 local employees and administrators helped build a home that is nearing completion. Also lending a hand were area high school students dubbed “The Teensters” led by 17-year-old Rancho Aviation Academy junior Ben Tyra. When this home is built, it will be the 39th built through Habitat for Humanity in southern Nevada.

Another special contribution was made by the kindergarten students and some elementary students at Foothills Montessori School in Henderson. They raised over \$1,000 to help pay for a garage door and carpeting on a home being built for a family by Habitat for Humanity. The children collected money by doing chores supported by an old-fashioned pledge drive as well as a series of bake sales.

“They also wanted to supply art for the walls, dishes, and everything else they thought a happy home should have,” said Paige Painter-Boyer, who organized the project for the school. “We had to reign in their enthusiasm when the time came to deciding what type of fundraiser we should do.”

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Nigro Development is yet another company that has raised money and contributed to Habitat for Humanity's endeavors. Recently Nigro Development raised over \$6,000 by auctioning off three wooden playhouses at the grand opening event of their newly opened Rhodes Ranch Town Center, which is located near the corner of Warm Springs Road and Durango Drive. Todd Nigro, president of Nigro Development, said he believes in what Habitat for Humanity does.

"I personally believe anyway you can convince people to give back to the community where they live is a good thing," said Nigro. The development company also secured donations from Von's and Cold Stone Creamery.

Theresa Gulbranson, owner of the Rhodes Ranch Town Center ice cream establishment, donated the entire profits from the grand opening day's receipts, which totaled close to \$600.

"I was thrilled to learn that Nigro Development was involved with Habitat for Humanity," said Gulbranson. "We at Cold Stone feel that what they (Habitat for Humanity) do and what they stand for is what we want to be involved with. In the future we'd love to help out more than monetarily. We'd love to get the staff together to go out and physically build."

According to Mackert, Habitat for Humanity does not make any profit from the homes it builds. Families who qualify for help are sold the home at a zero-interest loan for the construction costs alone. Completing a single Habitat home requires the efforts of many individuals and local and national organizations. In the first quarter of this year, the outreach by the Las Vegas community to support Habitat for Humanity has been strong. Still, Habitat will continuously need the help of volunteers, sponsors, contractors and material providers to help them reach their goal of placing all those in need into an adequate home.

To support Habitat for Humanity in one of these areas or recommend a family in need of adequate housing, please visit www.habitatlasvegas.org or call the Habitat for Humanity office at (702) 638.6477.