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**Media Release**

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**Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Battles Construction Site Theft**

**Colorado Springs, CO** (August 18, 2021) – Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) has always suffered theft of construction materials from building sites over the years, prompting installation of security fencing, storage, and theft-deterring actions, but the recent theft of a furnace from a Habitat house in Colorado Springs in broad daylight was a shock. The furnace was delivered and installed in the unfinished but closed-in home on a Sunday afternoon, only to be stolen within a couple hours. The cost of the furnace and installation is not covered by insurance as it is below the deductible.

As has been widely reported this summer, high costs and shortages of house construction materials caused by a COVID-weary economy continue to stress both residential and commercial builders. Two years ago, PPHFH reported that construction costs averaged \$160,000 per house. Now that figure is \$240,000.

PPHFH relies heavily on donations to help build affordable housing for the local community, not only financial donations, but contributions of services and materials, too. In addition to volunteer labor—90% of each house is built by volunteers—in-kind donations average 18% per house, about \$42,000 currently.

In fact the Bryant furnace that was stolen was a donation from Lohmiller & Company, a Denver-based partner with Habitat for Humanity of Colorado that regularly donates furnaces to Habitat affiliates across Colorado. Fortunately for the local family whose house this furnace was stolen from, Lohmiller & Company generously replaced the furnace, with no cost to PPHFH or the family.

Kris Lewis, PPHFH Executive Director/CEO, states, “We are so grateful to those who are trying to help us build sustainable affordable homes and help us keep construction costs down so we can serve more families. It is so sad that the selfish greed of others impacts the bottom line of generous hearts. The cost to replace the furnace is covered through the very generous donor, and being that the cost is within an insurance deductible, it is out-of-pocket hitting the bottom line of a company that gives back to its community.”

PPHFH is currently building houses in their 30-lot neighborhood “The Ridge at Sand Creek” in Colorado Springs, and in infill project “Micah’s View” in Fountain. Those who wish to support these construction projects can visit PPHFH’s website at [pikespeakhabitat.org](https://pikespeakhabitat.org) to learn how to make donations.

**About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity**

Celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in El Paso County. We build permanent, affordable homes in partnership with the community and prospective homebuyers. Partner families purchase their homes with affordable

mortgages. PPHFH has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1986 and has assisted 193 families in El Paso County. In addition to new construction, PPHFH also offers repairs for homeowners who are seniors (65 and older), veterans, and cost-burdened families. For more information, visit [pikespeakhabitat.org](http://pikespeakhabitat.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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