

media alert

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Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Celebrates World Interfaith Harmony Week Feb. 1 – 7, 2022

[COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO] (February 1, 2022) — Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) is celebrating the United Nations' World Interfaith Harmony Week with a week-long initiative of activities and events.

In 2010 the United Nations' (UN) General Assembly proclaimed the first week in February on an annual basis as World Interfaith Harmony Week. The purpose is to showcase the importance of interfaith dialogue among people of diverse faith backgrounds, belief systems, and spiritual practices, spreading the message of goodwill, and respect for others. During this week, Feb. 1 - 7, 2022, the UN calls on individuals, nations, and faith communities from around the world to join them in celebrations of this event, and recognize the importance of interfaith dialogue.

This year, the Faith Relations Committee of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity--a group of individuals from a variety of different faith backgrounds, belief systems, and spiritual practices who unite to build affordable homes for El Paso County families--created the "Building as One" Initiative in celebration of the 2022 World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Daily "Building as One" events and activities planned during this week can be accessed via PPHFH's <u>website here</u>, and include:

Date	Event / Activity
Tue, Feb. 1	Learn about the history of the UN Initiative
Wed, Feb. 2	Sign PPHFH's declaration in celebration of the UN's 2022 World Interfaith Harmony Week
Thu, Feb. 3	Learn about PPHFH's Interfaith Build for Unity (IBU) Project (more information below)
Fri, Feb. 4	 Interfaith prayers by community faith leaders for those in need of affordable housing: Dan Pitts, Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Feda Jodeh, Islamic Society of Colorado Springs Jeff Ader, Temple Beit Torah
Sat, Feb. 5	 Testimonies by Interfaith Committee members of why the IBU is important: Feda Jodeh, Islamic Society of Colorado Springs Father Jeremiah, Grace and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Sun, Feb. 6	PPHFH in association with the Pikes Peak Interfaith Coalition invites the public to join its "Interfaith Dialogue: Building as One". Two future Habitat homeowners will share remarks about their experience of being selected as IBU homeowners. <u>Details for time, location (in-person and virtual options), and RSVP can be found here</u> .
Mon, Feb. 7	Engage in interfaith work: PPHFH has ideas and resources for those interested in pursuing "faith in action" as a way to help others in our community, and to learn from others of diverse backgrounds.

The Interfaith Build for Unity: A PPHFH Project

Bringing together a dedicated group of volunteers from a diverse set of faiths, beliefs, and cultural backgrounds, <u>PPHFH's Interfaith Build for Unity (IBU)</u> encourages people to put aside their differences, put their faith into action, and work together to build homes, communities, and hope. Connecting with local churches, temples, mosques, religious leaders, and humanists to help build this house, PPHFH broke ground on its first IBU home in March 2021. This house, scheduled to be finished in the spring of 2022, will become a safe, permanent, and affordable home for a single-mother and her teenage son, as well as proof that our desire to lift up each other is greater than our differences. The ground blessing for a second IBU house was celebrated January 22, 2022.

For more information about the UN's Interfaith Harmony Week, visit <u>www.un.org/en/observances/interfaith-harmony-week</u>.

About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

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 201 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 <u>www.pikespeakhabitat.org</u> and follow us on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>.