



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

**Contact:**

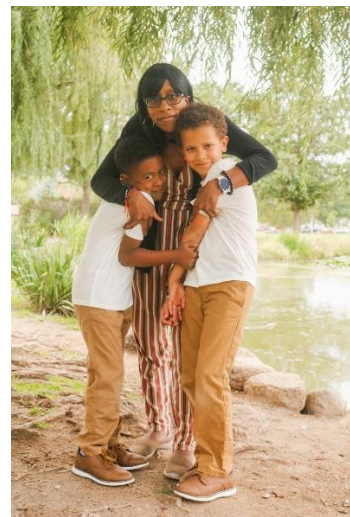
Monique Bos, Communications Manager  
Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity  
Tel: 719.475.7800 x107  
Mobile: 719.318.0147  
[monique@pikespeakhabitat.org](mailto:monique@pikespeakhabitat.org)

***Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Holds Ground Blessing for Three Families  
Ceremony to Honor Future Homeowners, Key Volunteers***

Colorado Springs, CO (Jan. 24, 2023) — On Saturday, Jan. 28, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity is hosting a ground blessing ceremony for three families of future homeowners: Ricardo, Mariela and their children; Susie, her son, Alex, and grandson; and Karmen and her two boys. The outdoor event takes place at 5303 Beauport Dr. and is free and open to the public.

[Ricardo and Mariela](#) are parents of four sons. They anticipate family movie and game nights in their new home, which will be constructed as the [2023 Apostles Build](#) (formerly Thrivent Faith Build). This ecumenical project brings local churches together to raise walls, funds and prayers to build a house in partnership with a family in our community in need of affordable housing.

“As parents, the feeling of making our kids feel safe, happy and...that anything is possible is wonderful!” says Mariela. “Our family is beyond grateful.”



*From left: Ricardo and Mariela; Susie, Alex and Alex's son; Karmen and sons*

Alex is an automotive worker and single dad to a six-year-old son. [Alex and his mom, Susie](#), support each other as roommates and are excited about having more space to pursue shared hobbies such as gardening. Their residence will be the 3rd George Hammond Home—Honoring Tim Trowbridge. Each of these homes, named for longtime Pikes Peak Habitat [volunteer Hammond](#), is constructed in honor of a volunteer who embodies the qualities of service and dedication to Pikes Peak Habitat’s mission. This year’s honoree, Trowbridge, will be present at the ground blessing along with the future homeowners.

“Alex and I completely agree that investing our own time and effort in building our home over the next year greatly adds to our appreciation of the incredible gift we have been given,” says Susie. “We are looking forward to this new adventure of homeownership and working with all of the wonderful staff and volunteers at Habitat over this next year, as well as developing lasting friendships with our new neighbors!”

[Karmen](#), a U.S. Army veteran and single mom of two boys, grew up as one of four daughters of a single mother. She has worked diligently to create a better life for her sons and looks forward to moving out of public housing. Her home will be constructed as the 2023 [Veterans Build](#), part of Habitat for Humanity’s national initiative to provide housing solutions and volunteer and employment opportunities to U.S. veterans, military service members and their families.

Karmen says she and her sons “can finally stop looking for a home because we are home! When we were house hunting we got a bunch of impossibles, but now with Habitat it’s possible!”

All three homes will be constructed in The Ridge at Sand Creek, located near Galley and Babcock roads. Pikes Peak Habitat is building 30 houses in this mixed-income development, enabling homeowners to form a community, support each other, and assist with “sweat equity” on each other’s homes.

As with all Habitat homeowners, the family must show (1) a need for affordable housing such as overcrowding, unhealthy or unsanitary conditions, unaffordable rent, and/or an unsafe neighborhood; (2) a willingness to partner with Habitat by completing homebuyer education (credit counseling, budgeting, estate planning, protecting assets and more), as well as investing 200 “sweat equity” hours to build their house; and (3) the ability to purchase the house and pay the mortgage.

###

### **About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity**

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in El Paso County. We construct permanent, affordable homes in partnership with the community and prospective homebuyers, who purchase their homes with affordable mortgages. In addition, our home repair program works with seniors, veterans and other cost-burdened homeowners in El Paso County, who “pay it forward” by serving their communities. Pikes Peak Habitat has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1986 and has partnered with more than 200 families in El Paso County. For more information, visit <http://www.pikespeakhabitat.org> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).