

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Media Advisory

### Contact:

Monique Bos, Communications Manager Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

Tel: 719.475.7800 x107 Mobile: 719.318.0147

monique@pikespeakhabitat.org

# Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Holds Triple Ground Blessing and Home Dedication

# Back-to-back Ceremonies Introduce Three Future Homeowners and Dedicate 2<sup>nd</sup> Interfaith Build for Unity Home

Colorado Springs, CO (April 27, 2023)—On Saturday, April 29, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity will host two outdoor celebrations at 5303 Beauport Dr., Colorado Springs, 80915, in The Ridge at Sand Creek neighborhood. At 9:30 a.m., we will bless ground for three future homeowners and their families: Jessica, Kayla, and Maria. Then, at 10:30 a.m., we'll present Anna and her family with the keys to their new home, built as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interfaith Build for Unity (IBU). Both events are free and open to media and the public.

<u>Jessica</u>, whose home will be constructed as the 3<sup>rd</sup> IBU, is a single mom who works for a local school district. Right now, she and her son live in a 290-square-foot studio apartment that has numerous safety issues, electrical hazards, and holes around the windowpanes. They've experienced seasonal rodent infestations and a break-in during broad daylight.

Since being accepted to Pikes Peak Habitat's homeownership program, Jessica says, "I know there are better days ahead....Slowly but surely my life is getting back together after a really hard seven years." To the donors and volunteers who will partner with her to build her house, she says, "You are making our fairy tale a dream come true for this mom and little boy."







From left: Jessica and her son; Kayla and her children; Maria and her children

<u>Kayla</u>, whose new home will be built through the <u>Fund for Humanity</u>, is a single mom of two teenagers. She and her children have moved frequently due to changes in income requirements, rent increases, and unsafe neighborhoods. The townhouse where they live now is both unsanitary and hazardous. The plumbing often malfunctions, the electricity is faulty, and the floor appears to be rotting.

When her Pikes Peak Habitat home is completed, she looks forward to planting a garden and setting up a basketball hoop for her son. She hopes her daughter can have friends sleep over. "God has been faithful, we've never gone without, he's kept us safe despite our many living situations and backgrounds, and I know this is just the beginning!" she says. "Thank you for seeing the value in us when no one else did. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus, and thank you for blessing the least of these!"

<u>Maria</u>'s home will also be built through the Fund for Humanity. A single mother of teenage twins, Maria works full-time in the plant industry but still struggles to make ends meet. Right now, the family shares a two-bedroom apartment through Section 8 housing.

She's eager for her children to have their own rooms and also looks forward to joining a neighborhood of Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners. "I will be part of a community. I am looking forward to [helping] build my own house, as well as others in my neighborhood, and help and get to know people in my community," she says. "This is a great opportunity for my family. I know it will be hard work, and I am ready for it. I feel blessed to be selected and will put in 100%."

Following the ground blessing for these three families, Pikes Peak Habitat will hold a home dedication for <u>Anna and her family</u>. Anna is a single mother of three daughters, one of whom has been battling brain cancer for several years, and caretaker to her mother. The family has been living in a one-bedroom, one-bathroom home. "I want to say thank you, and that is not even enough," says Anna.

As the 2<sup>nd</sup> IBU home, Anna's house has brought together individuals and groups from a variety of faith traditions, who worked side by side on the construction and signed studs in the home with prayers, blessings, and sacred texts. Reflecting this diversity, the home dedication ceremony will feature interfaith leaders, the Native American Women's Association, and the Air Force Academy Gospel Choir. Anna will be given the keys to her home, and attendees have the opportunity to tour the residence.



**Note:** To honor the privacy of our current and future homeowners and their families, Pikes Peak Habitat does not publicly share their last names. Individual homeowners may provide full names to media if they choose, but we respectfully request that they be given the option to use only first names if they prefer.

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# **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 <a href="http://www.pikespeakhabitat.org">http://www.pikespeakhabitat.org</a> and follow us on <a href="facebook">Facebook</a>, <a href="mailto:Twitter">Twitter</a>, <a href="Instagram">Instagram</a> and YouTube.

### About the Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build for Unity

This monumental movement brings together volunteers from a variety of different backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths, who put aside their differences and work together in unity to help build affordable homes in El Paso County.

### About the Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Fund for Humanity

The Fund for Humanity refers to a collection of funding sources, including capital from loan sale programs, loan payoffs, monthly Habitat mortgage payments, unrestricted fundraising, and net proceeds from the ReStore.