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Press Release

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Army Veteran Celebrates Homeownership

Home for Single Mom Constructed as Pikes Peak Habitat's 4th Veterans Build

Colorado Springs, CO (July 5, 2023) — Karmen, an El Paso County [Army veteran and single mom](#), has spent 200 hours during the past seven months helping build her own home and those of her neighbors through Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity's [homeownership program](#), which partners with local workforce families in need of affordable housing. Now Karmen is celebrating Independence Day by preparing to move into the house!

Pikes Peak Habitat will honor Karmen at a home dedication ceremony Saturday, July 8, at 10:30 a.m. at The Ridge at Sand Creek neighborhood. Her house was constructed as the organization's 4th [Veterans Build](#), part of a Habitat for Humanity International program that supports veterans through housing solutions as well as volunteer and employment opportunities. Media and the public are invited to this free event, where we recognize [Karmen's hard work](#) and rejoice with her family as they receive the keys to their new home.

The graphic is a dark blue rectangular invitation. At the top left is the Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity logo. To its right, the text "4th Veterans Build Home Dedication for Karmen's Family" is written in white. Below the logo, the phrase "You're Invited!" is written in a white, cursive font, with a red star above the word "You're" and blue stars around "Invited!". To the right of this text, a white box contains the event details: "Saturday, July 8 | 10:30 a.m.", "5303 Beauport Dr.", and "Colorado Springs, CO 80915". At the bottom left, another white box contains the text: "Join us as we celebrate Karmen's family's journey to affordable homeownership and the Pikes Peak Habitat community that came together to make it possible!". At the bottom right is a photograph of Karmen and her two children standing outdoors near a body of water with trees in the background.

Karmen grew up as one of four daughters of a single mother. She has worked diligently to create a good life for her family and looks forward to moving into their own permanent home. Her sons are excited about choosing the decorations for their rooms, while she anticipates savoring the view of Pikes Peak over her morning coffee.

They have already built strong bonds in their new neighborhood. She took her sons trick-or-treating there last Halloween so they could meet other children on the block, and she drives past the home with them in the evenings so they can chart progress. She's also gotten to know her fellow Pikes Peak Habitat homeowners through required home maintenance classes, attending each other's ground blessings and dedications, and sweat equity – the 200 hours she has invested in helping build her new home and community.

Ninety percent of Pikes Peak Habitat homes are built by [volunteers](#), who work under the supervision of professional construction staff. Karmen's home also showcases the importance of partnerships to Pikes Peak Habitat's work. Owens Corning donated the materials for her roof through their [Roof Deployment Project](#), which partners with local contractors – in this case, [Integrity Roofing and Painting](#) – to give back to veterans.

"I will always be thankful they came and touched my home," says Karmen.

She also worked with [volunteers from Colorado Springs Utilities](#) to landscape her yard and that of her next-door neighbor with water-wise plants, trees, and grasses.

"It's pretty fun and exciting to see what's going on and how to do it," she says. "It's always good to work on someone else's house and see how they feel, just like you want to see how everyone else feels when working on your house."

Karmen joins a community that will eventually include 30 Pikes Peak Habitat homes in The Ridge at Sand Creek, a mixed-income development located near Galley and Babcock roads.

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 Pikes Peak 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.

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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 <http://www.pikespeakhabitat.org> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).