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Press Release

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***Future Family Announced for Pikes Peak Habitat's Kum & Go Sponsored Build
Convenience Store Chain to Donate \$100,000 Toward Cost of House***

Colorado Springs, CO (Oct. 9, 2023)—An El Paso County workforce family will have the opportunity to purchase a decent, affordable home, thanks to a partnership between family-owned convenience store chain Kum & Go and Habitat for Humanity.

Over the past decade, Kum & Go has raised more than \$5.6 million for Habitat and has partnered with local Habitat affiliates to sponsor homes in North and South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Utah, Michigan, and Colorado. Now the convenience store chain is donating \$100,000 to Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity, and the funds will help build a home for a family of four.

The family selected for the build includes Alex, who works in construction; his wife, Ida; Ida's aunt, Lucia, who lives with the couple; and Alex and Ida's 12-year-old daughter, Sofia.

The family moved to El Paso County in 2017, after Hurricane Maria ravaged their home in Puerto Rico. When drains on their street failed, water quickly flooded the first story of their home all the way to the eaves. They fled to the second floor. Sofia, six at the time, remembers that the wind was so strong she could barely stand on her own.

After the storm, they lived in one room, along with Ida's parents and the family dog. They had no power for two months. Alex recalls waiting for 20 hours to fill his car with gas, and the family had to stand in line for hours to get clean drinking water. "We lost everything," says Ida.

Several months after the storm, they relocated to Colorado Springs, which they had first visited in 2014 to see Ida's brother, who was stationed at a nearby military base. Alex found a job framing houses, but like many workforce families in El Paso County, they struggle with the skyrocketing cost of rent. In addition, the family's apartment is in an unsafe area, and they've experienced several thefts.

They can't wait to get started building their new home in Pikes Peak Habitat's neighborhood at The Ridge at Sand Creek. And Sofia, who had to leave her beloved dog with her abuela (grandma) in Puerto Rico, can finally get the puppy she's wanted for years.

To Kum & Go, Ida says, "I want to say thank you for being our sponsors! We are so excited we [get to] work

with them.”

“We’re extremely grateful to Kum & Go for helping us move the needle on affordable homeownership for workforce families,” says Kris Lewis, Pikes Peak Habitat CEO. “Everyone deserves a decent place to call home, but safe, affordable housing remains out of reach for many of our teachers, healthcare workers, first responders, and entry-level professionals in El Paso County. This grant enables us to partner with a local family, not just to build a house but to strengthen the local community and provide a solid foundation for generational wealth-building.”

During this fiscal year, Pikes Peak Habitat will partner with 10 local families through their homeownership program.

“Working with Habitat for Humanity these past 10 years has been an extremely meaningful experience,” says Emily Bahnsen, community investment manager at Kum & Go. “Not only have we been able to provide significant financial support, but we’ve been able to raise awareness about the need for safe, affordable housing and educate our associates and customers about an organization who is dedicated to making a difference in their local communities.”

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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 235 families in El Paso County. For more information, visit <http://www.pikespeakhabitat.org> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

About Kum & Go

Established in Hampton, Iowa in 1959, Kum & Go is a fourth-generation, family-owned convenience store chain providing a fresh perspective by meeting customers where they are and offering them the choices they deserve. Kum & Go employs over 5,000 associates and currently operates over 400 stores across 13 states.