



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Press Release**

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***Interfaith Dialogue Focuses on Neighborliness***

***City Officials, Faith Representatives, and Homeowners to Speak at Pikes Peak Habitat Event***

**Colorado Springs, CO** (Feb. 2, 2024) — On Sunday, Feb. 4, El Paso County community members of all faiths and no faith are invited to a free dialogue event, "[Who Is Your Neighbor?](#)" from 4-6 p.m. at Berger Hall, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Hosted by Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity and the Pikes Peak Inter Faith Coalition, the event celebrates United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week.

First, a group of five panelists will discuss the concept of neighborliness in their various faith traditions. The following individuals will participate:

- Dick Conn, former president of Partners in Housing and founding president of Temple Beit Torah
- Gilas, future Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner
- Janice, future Pikes Peak Habitat homeowner
- Kamel Elwazeir, former president and board member of the Islamic Society of Colorado Springs and entrepreneur
- Kayla, who moved into her Pikes Peak Habitat home in November 2023

After the panel discussion, Steve Posey, Chief Housing Officer for the City of Colorado Springs' Housing and Community Vitality Department, will share the city's plans for addressing the crisis in affordable housing, as well as actionable steps for local faith communities to take.

The event concludes with a unique, facilitated interfaith dialogue. Participants in small groups, led by trained facilitators, will have the opportunity to engage with questions of affordable homeownership, neighborliness, and faith traditions.

Anyone interested in attending the event is encouraged to [sign up online](#). Event parking on the UCCS campus is free. **Media are welcome. We do request that any media wishing to participate in the dialogue portion RSVP so we can assign seating. Most panelists and speakers will arrive around 3:15 p.m., and we encourage media to arrive then as well to ensure sufficient time to conduct interviews prior to the start of the event. We ask that no interviews take place during the event itself.**

In addition to the interfaith dialogue, now in its third year, Pikes Peak Habitat is holding a week of challenges in honor of [U.N. World Interfaith Harmony Week](#). Participants who complete three of the seven days of challenges are eligible for a prize.

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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](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).