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Press Release

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Joint Ground Blessing and Interfaith Home Dedication Spotlight Local Families

Four El Paso County Families Mark Milestones with Pikes Peak Habitat

Colorado Springs, CO (Feb. 23, 2024) — Four local families will celebrate milestones on their journey to affordable homeownership on Saturday, Feb. 24, at The Ridge at Sand Creek neighborhood, 5303 Beauport Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80915. The families are partnering with Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity to help build and purchase their affordable homes in this mixed-income development.

First, at 9:30 a.m., Pikes Peak Habitat will hold a ground blessing for three families:

- [Bernadette](#) and her children, the 2024 [Apostles Build](#) family
- [Damian, Trinady](#), and their twin daughters, the 2024 [Veterans Build](#) family
- [Miranda](#) and her children, a [Fund for Humanity](#) family



Above left, Bernadette's family, and above right, Damian and Trinady's family

Following that celebration, at 10:30 a.m., Pikes Peak Habitat hosts the dedication for our [3rd Interfaith Build for Unity](#) home for [Jessica's family](#). This ceremony features representatives from diverse faith traditions who came together, individually and as congregations, to help with the construction of Jessica's new home.



Jessica and her son

Jessica is a single mom who works for a local school district. She sacrificed a more lucrative career to be more present with her son, but they struggled to find housing as a result and have been sharing a 290-square-foot studio apartment plagued with electrical hazards, rodents, and other safety concerns. She's excited to have a "healthier and happier way of life" in their new home and "a stable place to make memories."

The three families celebrating their ground blessing will be her future neighbors.

Bernadette is a single mom of three children. She grew up in Fountain, where she still lives, and she works in childcare, but she found buying a home in El Paso County to be impossible until she was accepted into Pikes Peak Habitat's program. She looks forward to more space as her children grow older and also a yard for the family dog. Her home will be constructed as the 2024 Apostles Build, a collaborative project bringing together church congregations from across El Paso County.

"Not very many people get to say that they helped build their own house or their family members helped build the house," says Bernadette. "I think it'll be a good community!"

Damian is a U.S. Army veteran who met his wife, **Trinady**, while he was stationed at Ft. Carson. He now works as a delivery driver, and Trinady is finishing her education. They look forward to giving their daughters, who are two, a stable home with a yard to play in.

"We want what is best for our kids so they can grow up in a stable home and enjoy their childhood as much as possible," says Trinady. Damian agrees: "I'm looking forward to giving the girls a better future, giving them a home instead of rooms."

Their home will be the 2024 Veterans Build, a program that supports veterans through homeownership and home repair opportunities.

Miranda also has two children, holds a full-time job, and is working on finishing her degree. When she moved to Colorado Springs in 2016, her goal was to save enough money to purchase a condo for her family, but as housing costs have risen, she's found herself priced out of the market.

She says living in an apartment has taught her children some valuable lessons. "I think they've learned a lot of respect for people around us, because it's like, 'Hey, you can't run, you can't jump, you can't yell,'" she explains. "It's a lot of can't's, but it's to be respectful of those around you."

Still, she's excited that her kids will get to grow up in a house with their own rooms and yard to play in. "The biggest part of my heart is the happiest because they get what they deserve!" she says.

All Pikes Peak Habitat future homeowners invest 200 hours of sweat equity in helping build their home. Working on the construction site also provides a way for them to build relationships with future neighbors before they even move into the community.

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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](#).