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Press Release

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***Pikes Peak Habitat Interfaith Program Earns International Honor
Interfaith Dialogue and Related Activities Win Second Place in
the HM King Abdullah II UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize Competition***

Colorado Springs, CO (Apr. 19, 2024) — Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce that [our 2024 UN World Interfaith Harmony Week initiative](#), which included daily activities as well as an Interfaith Dialogue, has won second place in the [HM King Abdullah II UN World Interfaith Harmony Week prize](#) competition.

"Our Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity staff and Interfaith Build for Unity (IBU) subcommittee are honored to accept this award," says Chloe Henry, Pikes Peak Habitat Faith in Action program manager. "We would like to extend our deep appreciation to HM King Abdullah II and the esteemed panel of judges for organizing World Interfaith Harmony Week. This award has inspired our IBU subcommittee and partner faith communities to continue to work together in unity to support those in need of a safe, affordable place to call home in our community, to build bridges across lines of religious difference, and dispel misconceptions about one another."

UN [World Interfaith Harmony Week](#) takes place every year from Feb. 1-7. In celebration of this initiative, Pikes Peak Habitat hosts an annual interfaith dialogue and posts daily activities to both our website and our social media channels.

Our 2024 dialogue, "[Who Is Your Neighbor?](#)" took place on the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs campus Feb. 4. The event, which was free and open to the public, featured a panel of representatives from several faith traditions, including Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Yarsani. After the panel, Steve Posey, Colorado Springs chief housing officer at the time, shared remarks about the city's vision and goals for affordable housing. Finally, attendees had the chance to participate in facilitated interfaith discussions at their tables.

In addition, Pikes Peak Habitat developed [seven daily activities](#) designed to promote awareness of interfaith work, the need for affordable housing in our community, and the concept of neighborliness across various faith traditions. These themes come together in Pikes Peak Habitat's [IBU](#), an annual construction project in which groups from different faith traditions work together to build a home in partnership with an

El Paso County workforce family. Our 4th IBU will soon begin construction, and we will hold a ground blessing for this project on **Saturday, April 27, at 9:30 a.m.** at The Ridge at Sand Creek, 5303 Beauport Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80915. The media and the public are invited to attend this event. Future [IBU homeowner Isxel](#) will be present and available for interviews.

“The HM King Abdullah Award recognizes the excellence of Pikes Peak Habitat’s interfaith programs and confirms how crucial it is to build bridges across differences,” says Kris Lewis, Pikes Peak Habitat CEO. “We’re extremely grateful for our active, involved interfaith community, which includes representatives from Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Native American traditions. Our IBU and the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week both remind us that despite our differences, we have much in common, including a commitment to be good neighbors and care for people within our communities.”

Henry will travel to the Jordanian Embassy in Washington, D.C, later this spring to receive the second-place prize of a silver medal and \$3,000. This year, the first-place award went to “[Gift of Love: An Interfaith Art Performance Promoting Harmony and Tolerance](#),” produced by Bridges—Eastern European Forum for Dialogue Association at Bishop’s Cathedral in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Pikes Peak Habitat continues to promote interfaith engagement in El Paso County with a training night on **Thursday, April 25, 5:15-6:45 p.m.**, at Grace & St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, 601 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903. This free event is open to anyone interested in interfaith work. As our contribution to [Team Up](#)—a White House pilot project focused on bridgebuilding, which includes partners Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity International, Interfaith America, and YMCA of the USA—we have created a series of [eight training videos](#) and a supplemental workbook. These materials will be presented at the training night, and IBU subcommittee members will also share their experiences and insights regarding interfaith work. Anyone interested in attending may RSVP to Henry at Chloe@PikesPeakHabitat.org.

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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](#).