

Press Release

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BOISE VALLEY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BREAKS GROUND ON “WOMEN BUILD” PROJECT

BOISE, IDAHO: Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity will break ground on an exciting “Women Build” project on Wednesday, 2:00 pm at their lot at 3880 Patricia Lane in Boise. Idaho’s First Lady Lori Otter is the official spokeswoman for the Women Build. “Most of us grew up in a world where the thinking was that men built houses and women made homes. But everyone knows women always did a lot more than that. With Women Build, we’re focusing the care, compassion and most of all the skill of talented and civic-minded women on bringing life to the Habitat for Humanity motto, ‘Turning Hopes into Homes.’ I’m proud to be helping right here in our own neighborhood,” said Mrs. Otter.

Lowe’s Home Improvement Center underwrites the Women Build program through Habitat for Humanity International. Kristin Bjorkman, Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity Board member leading the Women Build, said “Our local affiliate jumped on this opportunity through the partnership with Lowe’s to engage and empower women to build a Habitat for Humanity home”. The Lowe’s Home Improvement Center on Overland will host free clinics in September for the women volunteers who would like to help construct the home.

The Boise Valley Women Build project is a dual-resident townhome, and the homes will be built by women, for women. “We hope women from all over Ada County will help construct this townhome. We need women with all levels of experience from none at all to professional construction workers,” says Bjorkman.

The future homeowners of both sides of this townhome have already been selected by Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity through their regular application process, but it just happens to be a nice coincidence that they are both women-led families. Adair Keating and Fauzia Azia are already busy putting in their required “sweat equity” hours, and both will be building alongside the community volunteers when construction begins on their homes. Keating and Aziz will be purchasing the townhomes when they are complete. Both women have already put in many of their sweat equity hours, and they are extremely excited to get started on their own homes.

"It's always exciting to see the walls of a Habitat house going up. I can't believe that soon it'll be the walls of *my* house!" says Adair Keating. Adair was born in Billings, Montana, and attended college in Powell, Wyoming and lived in Huntsville, Alabama for a few years. In 2003 she moved to Boise to be near her mother, Millie and her step dad Duane. Adair is employed at the optical department of Walmart in Boise. She and her cat Bailey look forward to moving into their new Habitat home.

Fauzia Aziz and her mother Najiba left Afghanistan in 2001, fleeing difficult living conditions and the Taliban. They spent some time in Pakistan before finding their way to Boise. Fauzia speaks Farsi and fairly good English, although she would argue that she doesn't. She works full time for an orthotics company and faithfully supports herself and her mom. "Everyone in Boise is so kind," says Fauzia, and she says that here in Boise she "feels safe."

"Habitat homes are built almost entirely with volunteer labor," says Donna Yule, Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity Resource Development Director. "They are also built with community funds." While Lowe's is contributing in-kind materials and cash for the build, Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity still needs to raise \$100,000 for this build alone. "We have many very attractive sponsorship opportunities for companies who may want to sponsor this build," says Yule, "and we encourage women's groups and clubs as well as individual women to get together with their friends, families, and coworkers to get involved to help us raise the funds as well as to raise the walls."

After the ground breaking ceremony on Wednesday the lot will be excavated and prepared for the foundation to be poured. Construction on the Women Build townhomes will begin in October.

For more information or to get involved in Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity's Women Build, please contact the Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity office at 331.2916 or email dyule@hfhboise.org.

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