



Media Alert

For immediate release
December 13, 2011

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FAMILY'S HOME COMPLETED IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

HOME IS PART OF LARGER NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION EFFORT IN BAY POINT

PUBLIC CAN TOUR REHABILITATED HOME AT DEDICATION CEREMONY ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT 10 AM

(Oakland, CA) – Habitat for Humanity East Bay (HEB) invites the community to join with volunteers, civic leaders, local businesses and neighbors at 10 a.m. at 297 Anchor Drive in Bay Point, CA on Thursday, December 15. Those attending will be part of a special “Home for the Holidays” dedication ceremony for the Leon-Flores family that will be held at the site of HEB’s 300th home built in its 24 year history.

The home is part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Neighborhood Stabilization Program. Through this program the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development granted HEB \$1.5 million to help rehabilitate Bay Point homes to help address the problems caused by abandoned and foreclosed properties that can become a blight for neighborhoods.

The larger neighborhood revitalization work being done in Bay Point and in other areas around the Bay is sponsored by Wells Fargo (NYSE: WFC) who recently announced a grant to the Bay Area Habitat affiliates in the amount of \$975,000 along with a pledge of over 1,450 hours of employee volunteer labor to support local families, stabilize Bay Area neighborhoods and create more sustainable and affordable housing in local communities. This is the single largest corporate gift in Habitat’s combined years of service in the Bay Area.

“It is rewarding to see that all of the work done by Habitat for Humanity and volunteers has led to a new home for a deserving family during the holidays,” said Micky Randhawa, President of Wells Fargo’s East Bay Market. “I wish the Leon-Flores family many years of happiness and success in their new home.”

At the December 15 dedication the Leon-Flores family will receive the keys to their new home. Fifteen years ago Maria and Jorge Leon-Flores emigrated from Mexico with the desire to create a better life for themselves and their future family. Today Maria and Jorge are one step closer to that dream as they provide this home for their three children Brian (7), Briana (3), and Jocelyn (1). For years, Maria and Jorge had struggled to find adequate housing for their growing family, constantly forced to relocate due to crime-ridden neighborhoods, high rent, and unsafe construction. In their recent rental, much of the home was unfinished, exposing the family to harsh temperatures in the summer and winter. To make matters worse, mold issues and unprotected electrical wiring created serious safety concerns for their young children. Despite Jorge working two jobs, the family was not able to find any affordable housing that met their needs. Maria and Jorge host reunions with their extended family on a monthly basis and are particularly excited about the opportunity to invite their family into their new home. They have been looking forward to the day when they have a home they can call their own. They are looking forward to giving their children a positive future by providing safe space to play, do homework, and grow up.

Janice Jensen, President & CEO of HEB, who will also be in attendance at the dedication, added, “This home is the 18th home HEB has built or renovated in Bay Point. In addition to these homes, HEB also recently completed a 22-home development in Oakland, has rehabilitated five homes in Antioch and 10 homes in Hayward, and in 2012 is poised to begin a 10-home development in Walnut Creek and a 12-home development in Oakland.” HEB is the largest Habitat affiliate in the Bay Area, building or renovating 30-40 homes per year and is active in communities throughout Alameda and Contra Costa County.

HEB is also one of the Bay Area’s leading sustainable home builders. Although modest in size, the new Anchor Avenue home features a number of energy saving features, including a new roof, insulation, low VOC paint, new kitchen cabinets and appliances, new lighting, new electrical, low flow toilets, new water heater, water-efficient irrigation, new flooring and a 92.5% efficient furnace.

To learn more about Habitat East Bay’s work or to volunteer or donate to the home building efforts visit HabitatEB.org or call (510) 251-6304.