

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Habitat for Humanity Approved for Neighborhood Stabilization Program Funds
Inland Empire nonprofits receive funds for housing programs.

Two Inland Empire Habitat for Humanity affiliates have received a nearly \$4,000,000 boost from the Economic Development Agency of Riverside County. The money will be used to purchase and renovate 20 bank-owned houses which will then be sold to qualified low-income families through the traditional Habitat for Humanity program.

This will be of great benefit to the second, third and fifth districts of Riverside County, represented by John Tavaglione, Jeff Stone and Marion Ashley.

The funds will come from the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program which is part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act approved by Congress in 2008. Riverside County is third on a list of nationwide targeted areas for the funds.

The 20 houses will be purchased in towns located in the service areas of Habitat for Humanity Riverside and Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley (Temecula). This includes the greater Riverside area, with emphasis on the Rubidoux area, and multiple cities within Southwest Riverside County.

An aggressive search is underway for qualified families to buy these houses. Families will be selected for houses based on the family need, ability to pay, and willingness to partner with Habitat. A unique Habitat purchase condition called "sweat equity" requires families to donate volunteer labor working on their own or other Habitat houses. In addition, the total earnings for families applying for these houses cannot exceed 50% of the 2009 Riverside County median income.

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization founded in 1976 with the goal of eliminating poverty housing and making decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat work is done at the local level through sanctioned independent nonprofit organizations called affiliates. Since 1976, Habitat affiliates around the world have built over 300,000 houses, providing more than 1.5 million people in 3,000 communities with safe, decent, affordable shelter.

More information about Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley and Habitat Riverside can be obtained from their web sites at habitat4inlandvalley.org and habitatriverside.org.
