

PRESS RELEASE

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“September 11 Becomes a Day of Celebration”

Dedication of final 4 homes on Farmington Road also celebrates 30,000 volunteer hours

Aloha, OR (September 2010) -

Saturday, September 11, became a day of celebration in Aloha, as 100 people gathered to bless and dedicate the final four homes built in Willamette West Habitat for Humanity’s Vance Place neighborhood.

“We felt it was the perfect way to participate in the National Day of Service and Remembrance, dedicating homes that were built using 30,000 hours of volunteer labor. Based on eight hour days, that’s the equivalent of 3,750 volunteers!” exclaimed executive director Mark Forker.

Now complete, the Vance Place neighborhood has nine homes total - including Willamette West Habitat’s first Energy Star certified home - and is providing simple, decent, affordable housing to 18 adults and 31 children.

The project officially began on August 30, 2002 when the land was purchased from the Oregon Department of Transportation as part of the Farmington Road widening project. The combined homes are appraised at over \$1.7 million, but due to Habitat’s unique program of selling homes at cost, they were purchased for an average of \$120,000 each.

Vance Place homeowners will contribute to the local economy by paying over \$18,000 annually in property taxes and have formed a Home Owners Association for the neighborhood. Because mortgage payments are based on individual income, the average mortgage payment (including property taxes, and HOA fees) is \$571.84 each month. For our homeowners, this is a welcome relief from what they were paying for the sub-standard apartments they were renting.

All nine homes were completed in time for the families to apply for the First-Time Homebuyer tax credit of \$8,000 per household.

Willamette West Habitat for Humanity is now moving a few miles up Farmington Road to 185th where construction of the Ramble Glen neighborhood has begun. Attendees at the dedication were surprised and delighted when Bryce Fendall of LBPS came forward to present executive director Mark Forker with a check for \$55,000 to sponsor a home in the new neighborhood. LBPS has previously sponsored four of the homes at Vance Place.

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About Willamette West Habitat for Humanity

Willamette West Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to generating homeownership and benefiting our community by building simple, decent, affordable housing with an emphasis on building neighborhoods. Since 1988, we have placed 68 families in Washington County homes. Habitat works in partnership with low-income families, volunteers, donors, and organizations to receive donated materials, volunteer labor and generous financial gifts. Qualifying family’s receive a zero-percent interest rate and monthly payments structured to their income. Mortgage payments go into a fund which is then recycled back in to the community to build additional houses. For more information, visit us at HabitatWest.org.