



PRESS RELEASE

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Habitat Victoria Welcomes Family to Fully Accessible Affordable Home

April 29, 2022, NORTH SAANICH, B.C.: On April 29th, 2022, Habitat for Humanity Victoria is delivering the keys to Nancy, Dwayne and their children to their brand new, fully accessible affordable home with a celebratory Key Ceremony. The family will be moving into the 10-unit multi-family complex in North Saanich built in partnership with Habitat Victoria. "There is an ongoing need for affordable homes for families in Greater Victoria and we are honored to solve a piece of this puzzle. Habitat Victoria is thrilled to hand the keys over to Nancy and Dwayne for their affordable, fully-accessible home." says Tiffany Gates, Director of Family Services at Habitat for Humanity Victoria.

For Nancy and Dwayne, finding a fully-accessible affordable home seemed impossible. With their son James' extra accessibility needs, they had to live in a small 2-bedroom apartment in Langford where the two boys share a bedroom without adequate space for their diverse needs. "Because of Habitat, we no longer have to worry about where we can live. We no longer feel like we're trapped in this apartment with our two boys crammed in one room with all James' equipment." says Nancy. This home will not only provide James with the freedom to access his whole house but will also reunite the family with James' emotional support animal, Angel. "Angel is James' happiness, she is his best friend, she puts a smile on his face when he is sad," adds Nancy.

The 10-unit multi-family complex was built on land donated to Habitat Victoria by local developers, The Berglund Family. Including Habitat's affordable homeownership model in the new development plans was key to solving the approval for the whole development project. "With the continuous need for affordable housing in Greater Victoria, Habitat Victoria is currently seeking our next build project. We found great success partnering with The Berglund Family and are looking for more opportunities to partner with local development agencies," says Tiffany Gates.

The Key Ceremony celebration will feature speeches from local dignitaries and Habitat Victoria supporters. The event will include a celebratory ribbon cutting and key handover to the family.

"To ensure that every Canadian has a place to call home, we can't just build more affordable housing. We need to build more affordable, accessible, and sustainable housing," says the Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion. "Through our National Housing Strategy, that's exactly what we're delivering for Canadians." The government of Canada provided \$32.4 million financial commitment over three years (2019-2021) to Habitat for Humanity Canada and its affiliate organizations including Habitat for Humanity Victoria.

"I am pleased to welcome Nancy, Dwayne, and their children to North Saanich. We are honoured to have Habitat for Humanity Victoria building affordable homes for local families in our community," says Geoff Orr, Mayor of North Saanich.

We are inviting media representatives to join us in celebrating the life-changing moment for this young Victoria family.



Date: Friday, April 29, 2022

Location: 2166 Bakerview Place, North Saanich, BC

Time: 1:30pm to 3:30pm

Schedule:

1:45pm – 2:15pm Speeches, Habitat Victoria’s CEO, Dignitaries and Land Acknowledgement

2:15pm – 2:30pm – Key Ceremony, the Best time for photos

2:45pm – 3:00pm – Interviews and Tours of the Accessible Home

Jenessa Mattson, Manager of Marketing & Communications at Habitat Victoria will be available for media interviews.

About Habitat for Humanity Victoria

Habitat for Humanity Victoria brings communities together to help families build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership. Founded in 1990, Habitat Victoria has built 34 homes in the Capital Region District to date.

Through volunteer service, efficient management, funder support and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat for Humanity Victoria builds safe, decent and affordable houses. Habitat houses are then sold to qualifying partner families and financed with affordable mortgages. In addition to mortgage payments, each homeowner invests hundreds of hours of their own labour through volunteer service into Habitat projects, including the building of their own home and the homes of others partner families, as well as its ReStores and events.

For more information:

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