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## San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity Leads Rebuilding Efforts

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Architectural rendering of a house plan used by San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity

San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity's long-term recovery efforts begin as the first rebuild permit in the Eaton Fire Area is issued to the local nonprofit.

In the days following the devastating wildfires that ravaged Los Angeles County, SGV Habitat announced their plans to help the community rebuild. Months after the disaster they are still dedicated to these efforts.

"This is not just about rebuilding homes—it's about restoring hope, stability, and a future for families who have lost everything," said SGV Habitat CEO Bryan Wong.

Over the next week the organization will host two community information sessions for low-income and under-insured households who have already expressed interest in receiving help rebuilding or repairing homes they own in the Eaton Fire area. These families have filled out an intake form available on the website <a href="mailto:sgvhabitat.org/rebuild-la">sgvhabitat.org/rebuild-la</a>. These sessions are already full, however the form is open to anyone in the area so they can receive information on future events and the programs and services that will be offered as the years of rebuilding the community begin.

Habitat for Humanity has a strong reputation and a long history of helping communities recover from disasters, including hurricanes, floods, and wildfires. Last month the organization successfully hosted its first official fire relief distribution event, bringing vital aid to more than 500 families impacted by recent wildfires. The event, a collaborative effort between SGV Habitat, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (Habitat GLA), and Sit 'n Sleep, provided much-needed support to survivors as they begin the process of rebuilding their lives. This month SGV Habitat has successfully navigated the expedited permit process. With the first permit issued, this opens the doors to begin plans to assist 200 local families with rebuilding.

"Habitat stands committed to the long-term rebuilding and will work to ensure families, particularly those most vulnerable, impacted by this disaster have a safe and affordable place to call home," said Wong. "This permit is the first among many that will be issued to SGV Habitat as we partner with community members to safely rebuild."

In Altadena there are 9 Habitat partners who lost homes in the Eaton fire. These are homeowners who either purchased homes through the SGV Habitat homeownership program or received critical home repairs to homes they own when they did not have the resources to do the repairs on their own. SGV Habitat is working with those partners who have requested rebuilding assistance and is working to provide options for all property owners through new construction of single family homes and ADUs. SGV Habitat has been building homes – and providing opportunities for first-time homebuyers in this area for over 35 years.

With so many factors in place for construction to be able begin - including the readiness of each property owner who is dealing with their own enormous amount of loss - the timeline for rebuilding projects is still unknown. For those who want to help with these efforts there is a volunteer interest list available on the SGV Habitat website.

"We are grateful for the support we are already seeing come in and we welcome other companies, foundations and individuals to join us in creating lasting change and ensuring no one is left behind in this time of need," says Wong.

SGV Habitat is calling on individuals, businesses, and community leaders to join this vital effort. The organization's proven track record of using donations efficiently and transparently ensures that every dollar goes directly toward supporting fire survivors. To donate or signup for information on future volunteer activities and help ReBUILD LA County, please visit www.sgvhabitat.org/eatonfirerelief

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We kindly ask that all media respect the privacy of the property owners at this time, please avoid the use of any names or addresses, and have all media requests come through Habitat for Humanity.

## **About San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity**

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, a small group of committed volunteers founded San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity in 1990. Fueled by the generosity of volunteers and donors, we've served over 300 families in our local community and abroad. Families and individuals partner with Habitat to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners receive a hand up, not a handout, as they help build their own homes alongside volunteers. All Habitat homebuyers pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. To learn more, visit **sgvHabitat.org**.



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