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San Gabriel Valley
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for Humanity®

PRESS RELEASE

San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity Addresses the Housing Crisis - Serves 27 Families During First Year of Expanding the American Dream Campaign

FOR RELEASE ON JANUARY 4, 2022: Monrovia, CA- With the help of donors and supporters, San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity (SGV Habitat for Humanity) has committed to transforming the lives of 100 families in the San Gabriel Valley, the Philippines, and Haiti over three years during their **Expanding the American Dream** campaign. Working through the challenges amid a world-wide pandemic the nonprofit was able to serve 27 families during the first year of the campaign.

Since officially launching the campaign on January 4, 2021 SGV Habitat for Humanity has provided homeownership opportunities to 6 local families, assisted 11 low-income families with critical home repairs (so they can keep and maintain a home they own) and made it possible for 10 homes to be built internationally.

As the whole world has been “housebound” at some point this last year it has given people a new perspective on what it means to have a place to call home. Families in need of affordable housing live everywhere: small towns and villages, sprawling cities, and our community. Currently, many Americans believe that it is challenging to find affordable quality housing in their communities, and more than half of all adults say they have made at least one trade-off to cover their rent or mortgage. Lack of affordable housing is a key reason many individuals and businesses left California in 2021.

“Our goal is to dramatically increase the number of affordable homeownership opportunities in the San Gabriel Valley” says Bryan Wong, Executive Director at SGV Habitat for Humanity. “The need for affordable housing in the area is overwhelming. We aim to make the world a place where all can afford to live—both first-time homebuyers and long-time residents.”

The Expanding the American Dream campaign is a \$28 million investment in the community, driven by the commitment to help more families achieve financial security and stability. It will provide critical home repair and homeownership to 100 families across the San Gabriel Valley and abroad. This numbers adds to the nearly 290 families already served by SGV Habitat for Humanity since 1990.

“Each time we build here in the San Gabriel Valley, we help build sustainable communities, increase civic engagement, promote diversity, and bolster local businesses,” says Wong. “The benefits of affordable housing spread throughout the community and beyond.”

An affordable Habitat home in Glendale provided the steppingstone Shane and Andrea needed to improve their families’ circumstances. After years of cramped living spaces and high rents they moved into their Habitat home in 2012 with their four children. When a career advancing opportunity required

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them to move to Seattle, Washington, they were able to sell their home back to SGV Habitat for Humanity and use the money to purchase a home on the open market.

“Our Habitat home in Glendale gave us the security that allowed us to dream bigger,” said Andrea, former Habitat homeowner. In 2016 their Glendale home was re-sold to a new SGV Habitat for Humanity family partner, opening it up for more people to live their dream.

Expanding the American Dream also made it possible for Salihah and her family to stay in their home after Salihah had a stroke leaving her wheelchair bound. After her stroke, Salihah was limited to living in the living room and bedroom. She was going to the gym daily to bathe. Through our critical home repair program several doorways inside the house were widened to fit her wheelchair, a ramp going into the house was built and the bathroom was updated for accessibility.

“It has changed her life, says Zuheerah, Salihah’s mother. “She can brush her hair and wash her teeth. This was something she couldn’t do on her own before.” Affordable home repairs like these mean families can continue to thrive in their homes.

Supporting SGV Habitat for Humanity builds stronger communities of tomorrow for generations of American Dreamers to come. Currently SGV Habitat for Humanity has two home repair projects planned for January and is currently working toward breaking ground on its next new home construction project in Pasadena. Anyone can donate or learn more by visiting sgvhabitat.org/ead. Share your support today by using #ExpandingTheAmericanDream on social media.

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 almost 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.