

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County



Photo credit: Kaile Hart

### **Santa Cruz County Habitat for Humanity Receives \$15,000 AHP Grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank WE'RE GROWING!**

33<sup>RD</sup> HOME NEARS COMPLETION, 4 MORE HOMES IN THE CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE

**Santa Cruz, Ca June 15, 2010.** Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County is currently involved in a major growth spurt. As the 33<sup>rd</sup> Habitat home in Santa Cruz County nears completion, the selected family of six is busy building alongside Habitat volunteers at the building site on Dawn Lane in Soquel. This hardworking family and their friends have already contributed more than 600 hours of sweat equity on their new home. While Habitat requires 500 hours of sweat equity for each Habitat family, this family keeps building their dream of home ownership.

It takes 3 things to build a Habitat home in Santa Cruz County; volunteers, in-kind contributions, and money; and today this new home is even closer to completion, thanks to a \$15,000 grant recently awarded by the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB).

“We are honored that our application for funding was one of 60 projects chosen out of a total of 155 project applications,” said Melanie Shaffer Freitas, Executive Director of Habitat. “This funding will help us to continue the growth spurt that we have been working to achieve in providing affordable homeownership for lower income households. Our organization is growing and thriving thanks to the donations of time, money and other resources from the Santa Cruz community.”

The \$15,000 grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank would not have been possible without the assistance of locally owned and operated Lighthouse Bank who sponsored Habitat in the application process.

“The Bank and its member financial institution, like Lighthouse Bank, have a long history of partnership with Habitat affiliates like Santa Cruz,” said Jim Yacenda, Vice President and Community Investment Officer at the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco. “So much hope and hard work has gone into the building of this home that we are especially proud to be a part of making this project happen with our AHP award.”

Habitat's mission to provide home ownership to low-income families would not be attainable without the Santa Cruz Habitat community. The Santa Cruz affiliate is responsible for generating all of the funds, in-kind contributions, and volunteer hours that are necessary to build affordable homes for low-income families. Partnerships, such as the sponsorship that Lighthouse Bank provided for Habitat in the FHLB application process, is crucial to Habitat's success of building in Santa Cruz County.

"The availability of quality affordable housing is a real problem for us here in Santa Cruz County," said Richard G. Hofstetter , President and Chief Executive Officer of Lighthouse Bank. "The work done by Habitat for Humanity provides solutions and it does so in the best of ways as it also enables home ownership. We are extremely honored to be a part of that process."

This is the third FHLB awarded to Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County in two years for a total of \$35,000 for homeowner projects. The Dawn Lane home will be complete within the next few months, and construction is scheduled to begin on the 34<sup>th</sup> home located on Frederick Street in Santa Cruz. Habitat is also in the process of obtaining planning and building entitlements for a 3 unit project in Scotts Valley.

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*Founded locally in 1989, Santa Cruz County Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit ecumenical housing organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and to making adequate, affordable shelter available to families in need. Through the homes built, hope is restored and lives are changed as the devastating cycle of poverty is broken.*

*Find out more about how you can become involved with your local Habitat for Humanity Santa Cruz County call (831) 469-4663 or visit [www.habitatsc.org](http://www.habitatsc.org).*