



For More Information Contact:
Elizabeth Neubrand, *Director of Development & Community Affairs*
Office: (619) 283-4663 ext. 317
Cell: (619) 972-1210
Email: elizabethn@sdhfh.org

NEWS RELEASE

San Diego Habitat for Humanity Completes Five Homes in Oceanside & Welcomes Five New Families to the Libby Lake Village Development

For Immediate Release

(Oceanside, July 24, 2009): San Diego Habitat for Humanity (SDHFH) and the City of Oceanside will welcome the Dahlquist, Ferris, Dupuis, Dixon, and Goldsmith families to the City of Oceanside. The five homes are part of a twenty home project which is San Diego Habitat for Humanity's largest development in history! The five new partner families will move into the Libby Lake Development on Saturday, July 25th.

"The City of Oceanside is delighted to welcome five new San Diego Habitat for Humanity partner families. These families are not only moving to the community but they have participated in the building of the community where each family has donated over 500 volunteer hours to building their home and the homes of their neighbors. Of these five families, there will be twelve children who will now have a safe and decent place to call home for many years to come I thank San Diego Habitat for Humanity for their partnership which brings affordable homeownership to our fine city "stated Mayor Jim Wood of Oceanside.

The Libby Lake Village development is being built with sustainability features to help lower water and utility bills. Features include tankless water heaters, drip irrigation system and drought tolerant landscaping, tile floors, James Hardie siding, energy star appliances, dual pane windows, low E windows to block UV rays and each home will be retrofitted for solar panels. The entire development has solar street lights.

San Diego Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with local families earning low income wages to combat the affordable housing crisis. According to the California Association of Realtors, the median income necessary to buy a house in San Diego County is \$68,000. The median SDHFH partner family income is \$36,000. SDHFH makes homeownership possible for families who earn 40% to 80% of the area median household income.

Prior to moving into the Habitat homes, all families lived in substandard, overcrowded and unsafe conditions. Cassandra Ferris and her three children lived in an extremely small three bedroom apartment. Maintenance concerns go unaddressed or are improperly fixed. The base boards are pulling away from the walls, there is a big draft through the front door and in the winter mold collects around the windows. The family's toilet overflows at times and the family is not able to drink the water from the faucet. Cassandra has to continually clean mold growing in her refrigerator because the door is broken. Police constantly come to the unit above hers because of drug and gang activity. The apartment complex is also right next door to a dump. There are signs posted around the complex that warn of cancer. Despite the challenges she faced, Cassandra looks toward a brighter future, *"Being a homeowner is a huge accomplishment. It will hopefully inspire other single parents to work hard towards their goals and dreams. It will also be a personal satisfaction to know that I have overcome the odds and have been able to provide security, stability, and a place to call home."* The five families have completed 500 hours of "sweat equity" building their home and will pay back a zero-interest rate loan.

The land has been donated by the City of Oceanside. Local construction companies Viking Commercial Construction and Turner Construction partnered with San Diego Habitat for Humanity by donating time and materials to build two homes in five days the first week of June 2008 as part of Habitat for Humanity International's Builder Blitz, a nationwide effort to build affordable housing for over 250 Habitat partner families. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans donated a full house sponsorship. Additional sponsors include Citi, Lowe's, Imperial Capital Bank, Ford, Midland Credit Management, Gafcon Construction, California Bank & Trust, Change a Life Foundation and the Union Bank Foundation.

About San Diego Habitat for Humanity: *The mission of San Diego Habitat for Humanity is to make housing a matter of action and conscience as a means to erase poverty housing from our community and the world.* San Diego Habitat for Humanity, Inc. is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. SDHFH welcomes everyone of all faiths or no faith to join the effort in strengthening families, neighborhoods and communities. Donors and volunteers are the foundation of Habitat's work in San Diego County. San Diego Habitat completed its 99th home and has more than 50 in the pipeline! For more information please visit www.sdhfh.org or call 619-283-HOME.

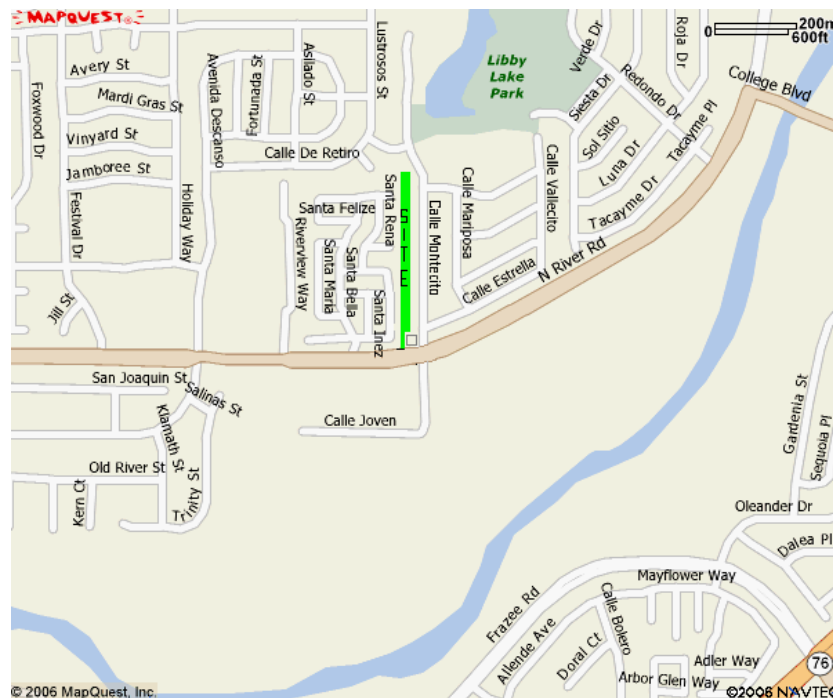
Directions to 4700 N River Rd, Oceanside CA.

From I-5

Exit CA-76 East, go 3.5 miles
Left (north) on Douglas Drive (after the airport), go 1.4 miles
Right (east) on North River Road, go 0.7 miles
U-Turn at Calle Montecito
First driveway on right after U-turn (into parking lot for Community Center at 4700 North River Road)
Project is straight ahead through the parking lot driveway
Please do not park in the Community Center parking lot

From I-15

Exit CA-78 West
Exit Right (north) on College Blvd – go until it dead-ends
Turn Left (west) on North River Road
First driveway on right after Calle Montecito (into parking lot for Community Center at 4700 North River Road)
Project is straight ahead through the parking lot driveway
Please do not park in the Community Center parking lot



###