



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 14, 2019

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Habitat for Humanity of Smith County announces new home closing

TYLER, TEXAS – A Tyler woman has a new place to call home after signing the official closing documents this week with Habitat for Humanity of Smith County.

Diana Bautista and her two teenaged daughters plan to move into their new home on North Tenneha in Tyler this weekend.

“As a single mom, all we could afford to rent was a one-bedroom garage apartment,” said Bautista. “My children are excited to finally have a room of their own.”

Bautista and her daughters completed over 350 “sweat equity” hours by helping to build their home and others. She is purchasing her home from Habitat with a no interest, 30-year mortgage. She works as a physician scheduler.

To qualify for a Habitat home, applicants must demonstrate the need for safe, affordable housing and show the ability to make a monthly mortgage payment.

The home is the 106th home built by Habitat in Smith County since 1989. Funds to build the home were provided by Lin and Sandy Barker, the Junior League of Tyler, Bank of America, State Farm and an anonymous donor. Five other homes are also under development on the same street.

“We are deeply grateful for our donors’ generosity,” said Habitat CEO Jack Wilson. “Their gifts make it possible for a hard-working, single mother to provide a home for her children.”

About Habitat for Humanity of Smith County (HFHSC)

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that makes homeownership possible for low-income working families. The Smith County affiliate was formed in 1989. In the past 30 years, HFHSC has partnered with local volunteers and donors to build 106 homes. Through its home repair program, Habitat has completed over 800 critical repair projects, making it possible for veterans, seniors and the disabled to remain safely in their homes. For more information, call 903-595-6630 or visit the Smith County Habitat website at www.smithcountyhabitat.org.

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