



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Habitat for Humanity of Smith County Announces Home Closing

TYLER, TEXAS – A Tyler woman will receive the keys to her new home at 2403 North Tenneha from Habitat of Humanity of Smith County on Friday, Oct. 25. This is the 108th home built in Smith County in Habitat’s 30-year history.

Scherry Jones and her daughter Brea, who’s a senior at John Tyler High School, have helped to build their home this summer along with hundreds of volunteers after the wall raising in May.

“I’ve always wanted to own a home,” said Jones. “I want to pay my hard-earned money towards owning instead of renting. I want a place to plant flowers and accomplish my goals.”

Jones currently works in home healthcare and attends Texas College where she is pursuing a degree in criminal justice.

Jones and her family completed 300 “sweat equity” hours by helping to build her home. She is purchasing her home from Habitat with a no interest, 30-year mortgage. To qualify for a Habitat home, applicants must demonstrate the need for affordable housing and show the ability to make a monthly mortgage payment.

“A Habitat home changes the family’s life and creates a positive rippling effect for generations to come,” said Jack Wilson, Habitat CEO. “Habitat chooses its homeowners on three criteria. First, we look at the applicant’s level of need. We also look for families who are willing to put in sweat equity hours and we also review their ability to repay the mortgage loan with an affordable monthly payment.”

Other qualifications include being a resident of Smith County for one year; a first-time home buyer; proving consistent, stable income for the past two years and allowing Habitat to run a

credit and criminal background check. Applicants must also earn between 50-80 percent of the median income of Tyler residents. Detailed information is available at smithcountyhabitat.org

Numerous groups, individuals, businesses and students volunteered to help with this house. “We are also so grateful for our core group of volunteers who build the walls in our shop and then move them out to the site for the wall-raising,” said Wilson.

Funds to build the 108th home were provided by Lin and Sandy Barker and an anonymous donor.

Three other homes are also under development on the same street. The 109th home will have a wall raising on December 7. First Christian Church of Tyler has given \$25,000 towards the \$100,000 cost and hopes other faith-based organizations will also contribute and join them in building the next house.

If you are interested in donating funds to build the next home, please contact Habitat for Humanity of Smith County.

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 108 homes. Through its home repair program, Habitat has completed over 900 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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