



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Habitat for Humanity of Smith County volunteer builds 50th home

TYLER, TEXAS – Habitat for Humanity of Smith County volunteer Bob Beckley will help raise the walls this Saturday, December 7 at 2401 N. Tenneha in Tyler on his 50th home build.

Beckley, who's 85 years old, has helped build Habitat homes since 2004. "I was a magazine printing engineer in Illinois and when I retired, I moved to Mt. Sylvan to be closer to family. I wanted to keep active, so I built my own house and then wanted to do more. I learned how to do carpentry, electrical, plumbing, etc. by watching other people over the years."

He says his favorite part of home builds are having the homeowner put the first nails in the first wall. "I also love it when we are building a home with children and having them write their name on the slab that will be their room."

Beckley is an Army veteran. He and his wife Wilma will celebrate 43 years of marriage in January. He has two children and two stepchildren and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The build will be the final home constructed by Beckley as he prepares to retire from his volunteer work. He says it's bittersweet, but he's enjoyed his time with Habitat.

Habitat seeking out families for new homes

The home on Tenneha will be the 109th home built by Habitat for Humanity of Smith County. "We are currently processing applications for a prospective family for this house and hope to have someone selected soon so they can pick out their colors and finishes," said Jack Wilson, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Smith County.

"We are planning to build two more homes on Tenneha in the first half of 2020 and are currently looking for people who might qualify for a Habitat home. Homeowners purchase their home

from Habitat with a no-profit, 30-year mortgage. Applicants must demonstrate the need for affordable housing and show the ability to make a monthly mortgage payment. More information is on our web site.”

First Christian Church of Tyler gave the lead gift. Church members will volunteer to build the house. “We are so excited to work with Habitat on this home build,” said Chris Pulliam, FCC senior minister. “We hope other faith-based organizations might join us.”

Funds were also provided by BBVA Foundation. Several East Texans also bought parts of the house such as appliances, lighting, plumbing fixtures, windows, doors, etc. at a recent live auction during Playhouses on the Plaza.

Habitat Build Donors include: Mitch & Kerry Adams, Rebecca & Scott Berkley, Matt & Trisha Brinton, Scott & Misty Childs, Steve & Donna Emmons, Suzette & Lee Farr, Corey and Mary Alice Guidry, Jennifer & John Gaston, Andrew & Audrey Gutierrez, Marcia and Randy Garrett, Jesse & Rebecca Grimaldo, Judith Guthrie, Scott Heater, Paul & Paula Hintz, D’Ann Miller, Bill & Dianne Moore, Mike & Penny Patterson, Steve & Rita Poole, Fred & Carol Smith, Stephanie & Chris Taylor, Robert & Mary Walker, James & Mary Wilhite, Jack & Patricia Wilson, Walter & Ashley Wilhelmi, Terry & Christi Williamson and Dawn Yount.

Habitat Build Partners include the City of Tyler, High and Tight Framing, Trane, Tyler Roofing, B.M.S., 6M Electric, Coy Dodd, Blue Star Plumbing, McCoy’s, Kovarik Drywall, J&S Contractors, Randy Madden Concrete, Green Science, LLC, Alpha Pest Control, All Seasons Windows & Doors, Lowes, Home Depot, East Texas Fence, Whirlpool, Woodshed Truss, Assured Insulation and Nance’s Cleaning.

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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