



For Immediate Release

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## **New Habitat For Humanity Director Named, Unique Raffle Underway**

### ***Heather Harp lends piano skills to fundraising efforts***

Missoula, MT July 2020 – 2020 has led to massive changes around the globe, and the local Habitat for Humanity office is stepping up. In March, Heather Harp, who holds a position on City Council was named Habitat for Humanity of Missoula (Habitat)'s new Executive Director. Hitting the ground running, Harp is trying out a new angle for Habitat's largest fundraising effort of the year; a raffle prize selection with the addition of a private lawn-chair piano concert, played by Harp.

"Joining and leading Habitat's mission in Missoula has been a wonderfully exciting experience so far," says Heather, "but not without its challenges. One of our biggest challenges is consistently raising awareness and funds. I'm delighted to lend my skills to our fundraiser and also offer something that we've been missing out on as Missoulians - a chance to gather and connect through music."

Sponsored by the Good Food Store, Habitat's "Stay Home for Habitat" Raffle helps make families' dreams of homeownership a reality by bringing in funds through ticket sales. Participants print and mail a form from [habitatmsla.org](http://habitatmsla.org) for a chance to win one of seven prize packages full of local gift certificates and items, many of which are donated.

"The raffle is unique in that we've created a way for individuals and families to actively support our mission from the comfort of their own living space, while bringing their attention to the many local activities and businesses that help make our community a great place to call home," says Habitat Communications Director, Hannah McDaniel.

Tickets are \$10 each or five for \$40. Winners will be notified by phone after the drawing on August 7<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.habitatmsla.org](http://www.habitatmsla.org) to participate.

Proceeds from the raffle support the continuation of Habitat's participatory homebuilding program. Habitat builds multiple homes each year in partnership with local families. These homes are then sold to the families who helped construct them through a special mortgage program that keeps payments within 30% of the family's income.

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**About Habitat for Humanity Missoula:** Since 1991 Habitat has been building simple, durable homes alongside local families earning 40 to 80% of the median area income. These homes are then sold to the families who helped construct them through a unique program to keep payments within the family's means. This process, called Habitat's 30-30-0-250 mortgage program, allows families to purchase a 30-year mortgage, with payments set at 30% of their income, zero interest, and the contribution of 250 hours of "sweat equity" work as the home is built.

This year Habitat is constructing two homes, the organization's 58<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> in Missoula County, alongside the Lumona family of six and the Grados family of three. The Lumona family home is also Habitat's 9<sup>th</sup> in the Franklin to the Fort neighborhood while the Grados family home is Habitat's first in East Missoula.

Habitat for Humanity of Missoula's office and retail location, the Habitat ReStore, are located at 3655 MT Highway 200 East, Missoula, MT 59802. For more information, call 549-8210 or visit [www.habitatmsla.org](http://www.habitatmsla.org)