



For Immediate Release

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Habitat Celebrates Raising Walls with 58th Partner Family

New home built in collaboration with refugee family of six

Missoula, August 27, 2020 – Habitat for Humanity of Missoula (Habitat) is celebrating a transformative day in the construction process of the non-profit's 58th home in Missoula, a home with the Lumona family. Habitat builds multiple homes each year in partnership with Missoula residents; these homes are then sold to the families who helped construct them through a special mortgage program to keep payments within the family's means.

Traditionally, Habitat's Wall-raising Ceremonies are public events, but due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 in group settings, this ceremony is taking on a more intimate arrangement. Future homeowners Kasse and Tosha Lumona, parents of four, will be joined by a handful of family and friends as well as Habitat staff and staff from another nonprofit, Soft Landing Missoula, who happen to be volunteering on the site Thursday morning. The raising of walls is a visual and experiential milestone for the future homeowners, and they are filled with gratitude.

"Thank you, for your help," says Kasse Lumona to Habitat staff. "My family is VERY happy!"

The Lumona family, originally from the Congo, currently balance time working with Habitat with family life and work at both local hospitals. "It's been a remarkable journey with the Lumonas so far," says Habitat Executive Director, Heather Harp. "Kasse and his family are strongly dedicated to each and every aspect of our program, and wonderful to work with. Getting to know them has been a silver lining to a very challenging year."

Habitat is also simultaneously building their 1st home in East Missoula (59th home in Missoula) with the Grados family of three. For more information about Habitat or to get involved, visit www.habitatmsla.org.

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