

For Immediate Release

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### **Creating a new path: Habitat receives unsolicited \$100,000 donation**

Upon opening the mail, Habitat for Humanity of Missoula employees recently received a surprise -- a big one.

HfHM was gifted a \$100,000 check from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The donation was unsolicited, given to the organization by someone who wanted to make a difference in addressing Missoula's affordable housing crisis and believed in Habitat's mission to create strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

"We are delighted that Habitat placed a stake in the ground with a plan of how to tackle our affordability crisis. They dared to think big, and it takes a leap of faith for the rest of us to follow. Giving them the financial support they need to see their goals materialize is important to us."

The donation was one of the largest individual gifts Habitat has received to date, and will help propel the organization toward its 30 by 30 goal to be building 30 homes a year by 2030. It's a goal that's been called ambitious, and it's been called audacious. It's something that hasn't been done before, but it's achievable, Habitat Executive Director Heather Harp said.

"There's no trail of breadcrumbs we're following", Harp said. "But with the help of many Missoulians, we're creating a path forward to address affordability."

When donors give to Habitat, they're demonstrating confidence in its vision for Missoula. Impact & Engagement Director Abby Lynes said she hopes the anonymous donor's giving will inspire others, as it will take the time, money, and effort of people and organizations from across the community to get Habitat to its 30 by 30 goal.

"It's exciting to see our Missoula already stepping up to the plate to build much-needed homes people can afford," she said. "We are so incredibly grateful for this donation, and we believe it is reflective of the generosity, kindness and ingenuity of members of our community."

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**About Habitat for Humanity of Missoula:** Since 1991 Habitat has created decent, affordable 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 three homes alongside hard working partner families who will soon be announced. These homes will be built in East Missoula, bringing much-needed affordable housing to the area.

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)