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## NEWS RELEASE

**March 19, 2009**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Photo Opportunity:**

Guarneros Family celebrate with “board cutting” ceremony

## **FORT COLLINS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY’S CELEBRATES 42<sup>ND</sup> HOME DEDICATION**

### **300+ Women Collaborate to Raise \$50,000 to Sponsor Home**

FORT COLLINS, CO – *Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity* will celebrate the dedication of its 42<sup>nd</sup> home on **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.**

This home was partially funded with \$50,000 raised by local women who not only raised the money, but built the home in partnership with homeowner Esther Guarneros. She has two children, son Atrato, 15, and daughter Marcella, 13. **The home is located at 2833 William Neal Parkway, Unit C in the Rigden Farm Subdivision.**

The dedication ceremony celebrates the completion of the house and thanking of all the donors who gave of their time, talents, materials and money to the build. Guarneros will cut a ceremonial “board” instead of a traditional ribbon.

Esther helped in the construction of her home by contributing nearly 400 hours, exceeding the minimum amount of 300 sweat equity hours required, to build her home. Esther worked at the job site along side volunteers and also spent time in homeowner education courses and financial literacy classes.

*The Women Build Program is a program of Habitat for Humanity International. Groups of women across the country who want to learn construction skills and make a difference by building homes for lower-income families and strengthening communities. The Guarneros home was the 3<sup>rd</sup> home in Fort Collins built as part of the national Women Build program.*

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Thousands of women have participated in the *Women Build* program proving that laying bricks, pounding nails and raising walls are skills not exclusive to men. “It’s important to say that we had lots of men from the community who joined the women to work on this home,” said Cathie Waugh, Women Build Coordinator. “However, 65% of the work was completed by the women themselves.”

***Sidebar:***

*Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity* is currently looking for new partner families to participate in its homeownership program. Applications are being accepted through March 30. Applications and information can be accessed on-line at the Fort Collins Habitat web site, [www.fortcollinshabitat.org](http://www.fortcollinshabitat.org). Contact: Theresa Bain, Family Services Coordinator, at 970-488-2605.

“It took a lot of time and talent to raise \$50K,” said Candace Mayo, Executive Director. “It was amazing how quickly the women banded together and raised that money in less than eight months.” Not only did they raise money from individuals, but the group held fundraising events including *Jewels in June*, *Hunters for Habitat* and a *Women Build Garage Sale*. *Hensel Phelps Construction Company* was a major donor awarding \$12,500 which was used to purchase construction materials.

***About Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity***

*Habitat for Humanity* is a non-profit Christian organization that empowers low-income families by partnering with them to build their home. *Habitat* does not give the houses away, but rather sells them to low-income families in need through an interest-free mortgage. Qualified families also contribute hundreds of sweat equity hours in the building of their home alongside hundreds of community volunteers who give of their time and talents. Since its inception in 1993, *Fort Collins Habitat for Humanity* has constructed 42 homes in the Fort Collins community. Visit the website at [www.fortcollinshabitat.org](http://www.fortcollinshabitat.org) to learn more.

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