

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Iraqi Family with Disabled Son Escapes Terror and finds Home with Habitat

Who: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento and the Dawood/Hashim Family

What: Home Dedication of new energy-efficient remodeled home in partnership with Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA).

Where: 3349 Western Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95838

When: Saturday, March 21st.

Family to arrive at 9am; Dedication Ceremony to take place from 10am-11am.

SACRAMENTO, CA – Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento’s newest homeowners, the Dawood/Hashim family, will receive the keys to their new Habitat home on Saturday, March 2, 2015.

The Dawood/Hashim family is originally from Iraq. The family of 6 came to the US as refugees to escape the violence.

Says Wasfi Dawood, “We came to the US for security. We wanted to feel like we were human.”

Wasfi’s son 22-year old son, Karrar, was born with severe brain damage and has no control of his arms or legs.

While living in Iraq, the family lived in constant fear for their lives and always looking for a safe place to live. During their time as refugees, Wasfi would carry his son on his back as they traveled throughout Egypt and Syria seeking refuge.

Says Wasfi, “It was scary because we could never be secure. We were always afraid something was going to happen to our children... nothing was safe, there was nowhere to go.”

Since moving to the United States in 2013, life has improved dramatically for the family, but they always still longed for a home of their own.

The family put in 500 hours building their Habitat home on 3349 Western Avenue, a remodel home in Del Paso Heights.

“When you rent,” says Wasfi, “you don’t know when you’re going to have to leave. I feel secure for the first time in my life and I feel that I have accomplished something for my family. Everything is better now.”

3349 Western Avenue is Habitat for Humanity’s 5th remodeled home on Western Avenue, the hardest hit block for foreclosures in all of Sacramento County.

This home will be Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento’s 121st completed home in Sacramento and Yolo County.

About Sacramento Habitat for Humanity: Established in 1985, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento is a 501(c)3 nonprofit local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Habitat for Humanity’s mission is to put love into action by bringing people together to build hope, homes, and communities. www.HabitatGreaterSac.org ##