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DOSS HERITAGE AND CULTURE CENTER HOSTS TRINITY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY LUNCHEON

WEATHERFORD, Texas--Trinity Habitat for Humanity is looking for more than a few good men and women to enlist in its affordable housing mission during its first BuildStrong luncheon at noon Wednesday, March 26 at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center at 1400 Texas Dr. in Weatherford.

The first Parker County BuildStrong event comes as Trinity Habitat for Humanity prepares to build its third house in Parker County. There is no charge to attend the lunch; due to limited seating and food preparation, reservations are needed by Thursday, March 20. Call Angela Bills at (817)926-9219, ext. 105, for more information.

"Habitat is not a give away program," says Angela Bills, Chapter Director for Habitat. "Families have to meet three criteria for homeownership." The first criteria is need, meaning the family lives in physically inadequate or overcrowded housing or pays much more than they can afford for housing.

Second, families must meet income guidelines, and breadwinners must have a minimum of one year in their current jobs. Families also must be willing to complete 300 hours of "sweat equity" building their own and other Habitat homes. All houses sell for no profit, and mortgages are financed by Trinity Habitat at no interest.

For many of these families, homeownership otherwise would remain a dream out of reach because of home prices and down payment requirements. Substandard housing seriously limits the potential of both children and adults, but a simple, decent place to live can break the cycle of poverty and hopelessness.

The homeowner-to-be for the third Parker County Habitat home is a woman whose life was dramatically altered by a plane crash resulting in her confinement to a wheelchair. Due to the cramped conditions of her tiny apartment, just maneuvering around to take care of simple tasks is difficult and time consuming.

Since its founding in 1989, Trinity Habitat has housed 989 family members and built more than 300 homes in Tarrant, Johnson, Parker and Wise counties.

Trinity Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Founded in 1989, it builds quality, affordable homes in partnership with families who need them, aided by volunteers and donors from the faith community, corporate sector and civic and fraternal organizations.

Habitat for Humanity builds with volunteer labor and donations of money and materials. Sponsors and donors underwrite construction costs of Habitat for Humanity homes.

Partner families invest hundreds of hours of sweat equity in the construction of their homes and others' houses, working side by side with volunteers. Partner families then buy their homes, making affordable monthly payments on a no-interest mortgage held by Habitat.

Their house payments revolve back into Habitat for Humanity's work, making homeownership possible for more families. Because Habitat for Humanity is a pay-it-forward housing program, a dollar invested in its work is a buck that never stops--it just keeps building.

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