



PITTSBURGH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ALERT: June 18, 2010
Contact: Maggie Withrow, Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh

TOMORROW – SATURDAY, JUNE 19th at 2:30 p.m.

FAMILY PARTNERS WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY **Displaced Parents Will Be In New Home for Fathers Day**

Who: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh (HFHGP)
What: Couple Displaced from Condemned Observatory Hill House
Move into Habitat for Humanity Home
When: Saturday, June 19, 2010 -- 2:30 p.m.
Where: 48 Greeley Avenue, Etna 15223

Directions from downtown Pittsburgh:
Take PA-28 North to Butler PA-8 North Exit
Turn LEFT at first light on PA-8 North into Etna
Turn RIGHT onto Grant at Jack Sullivan Chevrolet
Pass ball field, then LEFT onto Dewey
Greeley is at top of hill – turn left from Dewey onto Greeley

(Etna, PA) One week after their house was condemned by the city and demolished, Justin Defide, 81, and his wife, Dorothy, 83, are moving into a new Habitat for Humanity home in Etna on Saturday. The vacant, single story ranch house, built by Habitat in 2006, was in the right place at the right time for the elderly couple.

The Defides have been living in their daughter's living room for the past week after their home was demolished. Uneven land caused the house to shift off the foundation and because their homeowners insurance did not cover the house or the contents, the couple was essentially homeless. The Defides owned their home for almost forty-five years.

Within one short week, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh accepted the family's lengthy mortgage application, tax forms, credit report and income evaluation and references. It quickly became obvious that the couple, retired and on a fixed income, met Habitat's basic requirements for homeownership: 1) need for affordable housing, 2) ability to pay back an interest-free

mortgage, and 3) willingness to partner with Habitat for Humanity. According to Habitat's executive director, Maggie Withrow, "Habitat for Humanity steps in during time of crisis...think Tsunami, Haiti, Hurricane Katrina. I'm proud that our committee volunteers and board of directors moved swiftly to get the couple approved as Habitat homeowners."

Withrow added that if the house in Etna had not been vacant and easily accessible for the couple, Habitat may not have been able to work with the Defides. She added, "I think the scripture is 'all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.' God's hand has guided us through this project."

The Defide family will complete 350 hours of "sweat equity" (work hours the family must complete to obtain the mortgage on their new home), by the end of the summer. While Justin and Dorothy will be able to complete many hours doing volunteer work with Habitat, their son and daughter will serve as proxies, earning additional hours for their parents. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh takes great pride in being a fair housing lender and does not discriminate on many factors, including age.

The Defide's sweat equity labor investment will be their down payment on a no-interest, no-profit mortgage, payable directly to Habitat. The value of a Habitat home is converted into a mortgage and payments are recycled to fund additional homes, locally and around the world. Their mortgage payment will be less than \$500 per month, and will include homeowners insurance, school and property tax escrow.

Their new home is located in Etna and is a three bedroom, two bathroom ranch style home and includes a new stove and refrigerator. This home is close to Mr. and Mrs. Defide's children and will be a wonderful location where the couple can continue to enjoy their retirement.

For additional information about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh, call 412-466-6710 or visit www.pittsburghhabitat.org.

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