



THERE'S  
NO PLACE  
*like home*

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Habitat for Humanity celebrates its 1000<sup>th</sup> Colorado home dedication**

*Colorado Speaker of the House Andrew Romanoff to preside over historic events for Habitat of Colorado*

**Colorado** (November 18, 2008)—Habitat for Humanity of Colorado today announced it will dedicate its 1000<sup>th</sup> home November 22 at the Hertz family home in Longmont, Colo.

As Christine Hertz receives the keys to her new home and begins her journey with Habitat, Juana Mendoza, a longtime Habitat homeowner, also has a milestone to celebrate. She has made her last mortgage payment and now owns her home. As Hertz prepares for her first mortgage payment, Mendoza will burn her mortgage in celebration of her last.

The honorable Andrew Romanoff, speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives will preside over the ceremony and celebration, and will be joined by fellow Habitat for Humanity homeowners and supporters from all over the state of Colorado.

“This is truly a historic milestone for Habitat,” said Stefka Fanchi, executive director for Habitat for Humanity of Colorado. “It has taken us 30 years to reach 1000 homes, but with the continued support of communities throughout the state, we hope to build our next 1000 homes within three years.”

“I’ve waited so long to see my home rise from the ground,” said Hertz. “It hasn’t sunk in yet that this home belongs to me and my son. I’m overwhelmed by the outpouring of community support, and the miracles that come true when communities come together to improve the lives of others—  
people like me, who they don’t even know.”

Hertz is reeling with joy at the prospect of spending her first Thanksgiving in a secure, comfortable and loving environment.

“I can actually cook a Thanksgiving meal, and invite friends to sit at my table for the first time ever, thanks to Habitat,” she said.

Mendoza is equally ecstatic. It has taken her 15 years of hard work and dedication to pay off the mortgage on her Habitat home.

“I couldn’t have done this without the continued support and love of Habitat,” she said. “In my home I have raised three children and watched them thrive. My oldest son graduated from CU and is now an accountant for the City of Longmont. He once told me that he owes everything to me. But he did it himself. I’m so proud of my family.”



THERE'S  
NO PLACE  
*like home*

Mendoza admits that her and her children's lives may have turned out much differently if it were not for Habitat for Humanity. "I see so many people struggling, and I've struggled too. I've tried to spread the word about the good work Habitat does for working families. Some of those people are now Habitat homeowners, too."

The Hertz family home dedication and presentation of keys, the Mendoza mortgage-burning ceremony and the 1000<sup>th</sup> Colorado home celebration is Saturday, Nov. 22 from 12 – 2 p.m. (MST). It will take place at the Hertz home, located at 1215 Della Ave., Longmont, Colo. For more information about this event and Habitat for Humanity of Colorado, visit [www.habitatcolorado.org](http://www.habitatcolorado.org).

#### **About Habitat for Humanity of Colorado**

*HFHC is a nonprofit 501c3 corporation whose purpose is to build the capacity of affiliates by increasing access to resources, facilitating communication between affiliates and the community, and providing statewide leadership toward the creation of thriving communities that support healthy families. To accomplish this we:*

- 1. Develop sources of funds, in-kind donations, services and other resources, and distribute these equitably to affiliates*
- 2. Develop, promote, and coordinate statewide activities to increase public awareness of Habitat's work in Colorado*
- 3. Facilitate networking and sharing of expertise, information, technical assistance, and other resources with and among Colorado affiliates.*

*There are 31 Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the state, who in 2008 will build more than 100 homes in partnership with families who would otherwise be unable to obtain the security, stability, and hope that homeownership can provide. To date, 1,000 homes have been built in 42 Colorado communities. Funds raised and distributed by Habitat for Humanity of Colorado accounted for nearly 30% of affiliate building capacity.*

#### **About Habitat for Humanity International**

*Habitat for Humanity International is an ecumenical Christian ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in Americus, Ga., in 1976, Habitat has built more than 200,000 houses in nearly 100 countries, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than one million people. For more information, visit [www.habitat.org](http://www.habitat.org).*

###

Contact:  
Stefka Fanchi  
Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity of Colorado  
303-454-8965  
303-669-9478 cellular

550 S. Wadsworth Boulevard, Suite 150 Lakewood, CO 80226  
Phone: (303) 454- 8965 Fax: (303) 454- 8968 [www.habitatcolorado.org](http://www.habitatcolorado.org)



THERE'S  
NO PLACE  
*like home*

---

[stefka@habitatcolorado.org](mailto:stefka@habitatcolorado.org)

David Emerson  
Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley  
(the host affiliate for the event)  
303-682-2485  
303-946-5190 cellular  
[demerson@stvrainhf.org](mailto:demerson@stvrainhf.org)

An in-depth electronic media kit is available in the press section of [habitatcolorado.org](http://habitatcolorado.org).