

## Dedication for the Garcia Family

**44<sup>th</sup> Partner Family in Rice County = 59 adults and 103 children = 162 people**

Welcome & Introductions

Words from the Garcia Family

**Let us Pray:** Lord, turn our eyes on You and Your promises of forgiveness, healing, protection, redemption, love, compassion, renewal, righteousness and justice. May we look not to ourselves, but to You — trusting that the promise You made is the true hope that can save the world. Show us ways that we may be beacons of hope for others.

We are gathered here to seek God's blessing upon this dwelling place, which by the favor of God and human labor has been built. This place is not only a dwelling but a symbol to us of God's loving care, and a symbol of our life together in community. Let us therefore bring our praise and thanksgiving for the goodness and mercy we have received from God, and let us offer ourselves to one another as loving brothers and sisters in the family of God. **AMEN.**

### The House Blessing

May God give blessing

**To this house and all who come here.**

May Jesus give blessing

**To this house and all who come here.**

May Spirit give blessing

**To this house and all who come here.**

May all who come here give blessing

**To this house and to all they meet here.**

Both roof and frame

**Both brick and beam.**

Both window and timber

**Both foot and head.**

Both gate and door

**Both coming and going.**

Both man and woman

**Both parent and child.**

Both young and old

**Both wisdom and youth.**

Both guest and host

**Both stranger and friend.**

Peace on each window that lets in light

**Peace on each corner of the room.**

Peace on each place that ushers sleep

**Peace on each plate that cradles food.**

Peace of the Father, Peace of the Son

**Peace of the Spirit, Peace of the One.**

*(Prayer form the Iona Community, published in Human Rites: Worship Resources for an Age of Change compiled by Hannah Ward and Jennifer Wild, London: Mowbray, 1995, p.76-77)*

### Presentation of Bible and other gifts

Habitat Bible, Global Prayer:

**God, teach us humility so that we may...**

**...listen,**

**...confess and forgive,**

**...serve in relationship with the poor,**

**...persevere in our mission,**

**...unify as one body with many**

**diverse parts,**

**...and act with courage and boldness.**

**AMEN.**

## In Kind Donors and Partners for Garcia House:

- IBEW – Donates all the electrical work
- South Central Carpentry Class
- Community Café Ladies Guild
- Our Saviors Quilters
- Better Air – HVAC partner
- Welch Plumbing – Plumbing Partner
- Len Skluzacek – Concrete Partner
- Kevin Bakken – Excavating Partner
- Jeff Holm – Drywall mudder and Taper
- WINGS – Women in Northfield Giving Support, we’re a 2017 grant recipient
- Whirlpool – donates a fridge and stove to every house
- DOW – donates blue foam board
- Square D/Schneider Electric – donates electrical materials
- Valspar – donates all the paint
- Schmitz, Ophaug, Dowd & Blumhoefer, LLP, - Attorney Partner

## Mortgage Partners for the Garcia House:

- USDA Rural Development
- Three Rivers Community Action



## HABITAT MYTH BUSTERS:

MYTH	TRUTH
Habitat gives away houses	Habitat SELLS houses to families with an affordable mortgage. We are not like that show Extreme Home Makeover where we pull away a bus and rip up the mortgage. Habitat believes in offering a “hand-up” and not a “hand-out” – we happily have our families sign their mortgage and we fully expect them to pay.
Habitat houses are like revolving doors in our neighborhoods.	Since 1991 we’ve partnered with 44 families. 40 of those families are still in their homes today. This proves that affordable housing provides stability for the family AND the community. The national foreclosure rate for Habitat homes is 2%.
Habitat is a government program	Habitat is a <b>Christian</b> non-profit that holds the core belief that Christ calls us, compels us, to offer a hand to our neighbor. We do this through the efforts of volunteers, donors and our partner families. We are intentional about calling our families PARTNERS. We believe they have value, equal value to our donors and volunteers. Our partners put in 350 hours of “sweat equity” – time working on their home.  While we get some money from “the government” (Minnesota Housing Finance Agency) the majority of our money to support our program (over 73%) comes from local business, church and individual support.
Habitat families continue to rely on welfare.	Because we can provide an affordable, stable, housing payment it means that families are actually able to go OFF many state/county programs. A Habitat MN study found a significant decrease in the number of Habitat families who rely on food stamps, energy assistance and cash support.
Habitat families are lazy and don’t work.	100% of our families are working at the time of selection. Many work jobs at care centers, group homes or factories where their income is less than \$12/hour. 74% of our families are single head of household. If you’re single head of household, work full time at \$12/hour your annual gross income is \$24,960.
Habitat does little to end poverty.	Studies show that children of homeowners: do better in school; have higher graduation rates; have less teen pregnancy; have less truancy and delinquency issues and are MORE likely to go to college and have higher incomes than their parents in adulthood. We believe simple, decent and affordable housing changes the future of children and can END THE CYCLE OF POVERTY.

## Please consider a contribution today!

- **Mail to:** 204 7<sup>th</sup> Street West, PMB 128, Northfield, MN 55057
- On-line by Credit Card – Go to [www.habitatricecounty.org](http://www.habitatricecounty.org) and click on DONATE
- **Ask your bank** – set up Rice County Habitat as a payee of a bill pay system with your bank. You can regularly support a mission you care about!
- **Planned Giving** – Consider leaving your legacy with Rice County Habitat. There are significant ways you can contribute through will and estate planning. Contact us for more info!
- **Employer Matches** – does your employer match your donations to non-profits? Get the forms to us and we’ll let them know that Rice County Habitat is an organization YOU support!
- **Thrivent Choice** – Are you a Thrivent Member with Thrivent Choice Dollars? You can now direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to Rice County Habitat. Call 1-800-847-4836 and state “Thrivent Choice”.