



**Habitat for Humanity will turn the keys over to families at two homes on Alma Street in St Thomas, ON**

Nov 22, 2017 – London, ON - Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario is excited to announce the completion of homes for the Wilson and Dunn families and will have a key ceremony at 40 Alma Street, St Thomas on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 10:00AM. These homes, along with the two additions to the Manor Park community on Forbes Street in London, represent our local contribution to the Carter Work Project in July 2017. The goal of the initiative which brought former US President and First Lady Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter to Canada was to build 150 homes for our 150<sup>th</sup> year. Habitat for Humanity Canada proudly announced that the goal was met and surpassed. We are proud to have been part of this inspiring project.

“We are so excited to be having this key ceremony for the Dunn and Wilson families, this close to the holidays,” said Brian Elliot, CEO Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario, “We are also so very grateful to the people of St Thomas who came out and led this build and rallied the community to donate funds, goods and time which allowed us to complete these homes on time.”

Tina Wilson and her family are so excited to be part of the Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario program! Tina has two sons, Heath 15 and Reed 13. Heath has autism and Tina has always worked in customer service. Both boys attend high school in St. Thomas and Reed is looking forward to Grade 10 this September. The family manages to get by, but are frustrated with their current living situation which is a small, rented two bedroom apartment. There is no space to enjoy any privacy or for the boys to gain any independence.

Tina looks forward to owning her own home and says, “We will have a place to call our own, a place for both boys to live and thrive. A home will enrich their lives in a very positive manner. We feel extremely fortunate to be given this opportunity we would not otherwise be able to obtain.”

Tina is a valued volunteer for Habitat Heartland, freely giving her time and voice to the organization. We are very excited to build in St Thomas with the Wilson family!

Melanie Dunn and her daughter, Daryan, have been living in a 2 bedroom apartment together for the past seven years after moving out of her parents’ home. Never short on love for her daughter, Melanie worked hard to provide everything but found that a job loss meant Daryan would be missing out on some of the fun things other children were enjoying like going to camp. So, Melanie worked nights as a custodian for the school board, until recently switching to a new school with daytime shifts. In her spare time she plays as much baseball as she can, while Daryan pursues her interest in technology and the arts.

Melanie says, “We have been in a rented place for so long and have never put any family pictures on the walls. It will be really nice to be able to do that now and really make the house feel like our own space.”

The public are invited to come out and celebrate with us as we get our families home for the holidays!

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Who: Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario

What: Dedication Ceremony – 40 Alma Street, St Thomas with a reception following, at the Royal Canadian Legion, 24-26 John Street, St Thomas

When: November 28, 2017 – 10:00am

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