

Habitat for Humanity and Christian Horizons to break ground on Forbes Street in London

March 26, 2018 – London, ON - Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario is excited to partner with the Munoz-Gutierrez family and with Christian Horizons as they break ground on two homes at 24 and 26 Forbes Street on Friday, April 6, 2018 at 11:00AM.

“We are so excited to partner with Christian Horizons as we break ground on our tenth and eleventh homes on Forbes Street”, said Brian Elliot CEO, Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario. “Christian Horizons’ commitment to promote the inclusion and rights of people who experience disabilities, aligns with our vision of a place where everyone has a safe and decent place to live. We are also very pleased for the Munoz family as their lives change with the opportunity for homeownership.”

The Munoz-Gutierrez family, Carlos, Claudia, and their son Diego, ten years old, live in a townhouse in London and are often visited by daughter Jennifer who is attending school in Montreal. Carlos works for WinMar and Claudia drives for Uber on a full time basis. Diego is in the French immersion program, learning his third language. When shown the plans for their new home, Diego was happy to hear there will be a basement which may become his new favourite place to study and relax.

Christian Horizons is partnering with Habitat Heartland to build a home which will meet the current and future needs of three people they support. Founded in 1965 as a non-profit, faith-based charitable organization, Christian Horizons supports nearly 2,000 people with developmental disabilities in Ontario.

“This project represents an excellent example of a community coming together to enhance the quality of life and nurture belonging for three men with disabilities,” said Anita Bacon, Executive Director, Christian Horizons South District.

Ross Wilson is an incredibly friendly person and when he enters a room he literally lights it up with his smile and personality. Ross works part time at Compassion Canada, where he waters their plants. He loves being with people, going out to dinner or the movies, in addition to all things connected to the TV show, Star Trek. Ross is dedicated to exercise using his treadmill. In his present home this equipment has to be housed in his bedroom. But, in his new home he can have a separate area where he can enjoy his walks.

Chris Petrie enjoys doing crafts and painting, and volunteers at a farm where he sweeps and cleans. Chris, like many of us, has times of the day where he prefers his own company in a quiet, personal space, while at other times he enjoys the company of his housemates whom he



has built strong relationships with over the years. In his new home on Forbes St., Chris will have a private area downstairs (separate from the recreational room) where he can watch television, paint, draw or work on the math puzzles he enjoys so much.

“I’m pumped to move to the brand new pad. I’m excited to watch the workers build the house,” said Justin Thomas. Justin will want to be very involved in the build process, including visiting with the people who participate in the build of his new home. Justin will be delighted to take photographs of the build as it occurs, as well as plan the color scape of his own bedroom and other living spaces. The open concept style and larger living area of Justin’s new home will give him more space to do what he loves. Justin is highly creative. He likes to paint, adores music – especially county music – and enjoys dancing. Justin is happy that he will have his own areas in which to engage in his hobbies.

The public are invited to come out and celebrate with us on April 6.

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Who: Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario

What: Groundbreaking Ceremony - 24 and 26 Forbes Street, London

When: April 6, 2018 - 11:00am

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About Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario

Habitat for Humanity believes that every man, woman and child has the right to the confidence, security and hope that a home provides. Affordable housing is key to building strong, equitable and thriving communities. By mobilizing volunteers and community partners, we can build affordable housing and promote homeownership. We’re building to end poverty.

About Christian Horizons

Founded in 1965 as a non-profit, faith-based charitable organization, Christian Horizons serves people with exceptional needs in Canada, and in developing countries around the world through Christian Horizons Global. Over 3,500 employees support nearly 2,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families through residential and ancillary programs such as participation supports, employment supports, and supported vacation opportunities. Christian Horizons has more than 200 residences as well as respite care and independent living locations in Ontario and is funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. In 2015, Christian Horizons began operating in Saskatchewan, funded by the Ministry of Social Services. Established in 1990, Christian Horizons Global works in partnership with local organizations to promote the inclusion and rights of people living in exceptional circumstances in six developing countries around the world. For more information: christian-horizons.org.