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TURNING THE GREEN DREAM INTO REALITY

By Laura Jackson

Habitat for Humanity’s Park City Project

Can “green-certified” and “affordable housing” really be said within the same sentence? With the support of the Park City community it most certainly can. Habitat for Humanity is making the green dream a most fabulous wake-up call by proving it can build affordable, environmentally responsible and energy-efficient housing that will save its future homeowners, as well as our future environment.

Lisa Schneider, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity of Summit and Wasatch Counties explains, “Habitat’s Park City Build is a flagship for our affiliate’s vision of what affordable housing can look like in Park City. Habitat homeowners can experience a 30% or greater savings on their energy bills annually and live in a healthier home.” The home, located on Marsac Avenue in the historic district, is the first of two homes planned for the Park City Build, and is being built on land generously donated by Park City Municipal Corporation.

Community Partners Join Forces

“This project offers community partners who share our values of providing simple, decent, affordable housing an incredible opportunity to join us in environmental stewardship,” said Schneider.

The Marsac home is being built in collaboration with the Salt Lake Community College Construction Trades program. The project offers students a working laboratory to acquire invaluable green workforce skills. Bob Lurker, Division Chair of Technical Specialties said, “Salt Lake Community College and our Building Construction and Construction Management students are extremely pleased to have the opportunity to participate with the Habitat for Humanity project in Park City. Under the supervision of experienced instructors, the project is providing on the job training for our students. This training, combined with a valuable service learning experience, is an opportunity that has been well received by students and faculty alike.”

The new face of affordable housing in Park City includes many diverse members of our community all working together to make this project possible including Park City Municipal Corporation, Big D Construction, Archiplex Group, Alliance Engineering, New Star General Contractors, Salt Lake Community College, Summit County, Wells Fargo Foundation, JP Morgan Chase Bank, US Bank, American Express and so many more.

Registered LEED Project

Made possible through the generosity of local LEED certified builders and certification specialists, Habitat’s Park City Build is a registered LEED for Homes project through the U.S. Green Building Council rating system. This prestigious certification, LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), serves to recognize a home’s green performance in water efficiency, energy, and materials. Some of the potential benefits include: lowering

operating costs and increasing asset value, reducing waste sent to landfills, conserving energy and water, developing healthier buildings for occupants, reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions, and qualifying for tax rebates just to name a few.

James Dunlop, Business Development Manager of Big D Signature Construction, is yet another community partner playing a vital role in the success of the Park City Habitat project. He explains, "Many people have heard of LEED certified public, government, or commercial buildings since those rating systems have been around for a number of years, but the LEED for Homes rating system is relatively new to the industry. It's great to see Habitat for Humanity diligently pursue a LEED for Homes certification because it demonstrates that they care about the efficiency and indoor environmental quality of the homes they build, and more importantly, the people that live in them."

Hand-ups, not Hand-outs

Habitat for Humanity International was built on the belief that everyone should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live, as well as the premise that homeowners make what they call a "sweat equity" commitment to partner with the organization. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat and its homeowner families have built or rehabilitated more than 500,000 homes in over 3,000 communities around the world. In Summit and Wasatch Counties, Habitat is dedicated to building and selling homes for working members of our community, so families in our area can live more proximately to the areas where they work, play and go to school. To find out about how you can get involved, please visit their website at habitat-utah.org.

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- 4th Best Second Home Location in the Country. -Barons' 3/8/10
- Summit County Home Sales Up 40% in 2010 over 2009. -PC Board of Realtors
- Median Family Income 59% Higher Than the US Average. -US Census

