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Families grateful to Habitat

ROLF BOONE; Staff writer

OLYMPIA – Two more houses and a South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity 15-lot development known as the Fairview Cottages are set to be complete by the end of this year.

The Allard family of Olympia and the Musazay family of Lacey eventually will move in and become owners of the property. The two families and others associated with Habitat for Humanity took part in an hourlong groundbreaking ceremony Saturday for the final two, 1,400-square-foot houses.

The people involved also were thanked, including Joan Deyoe, a longtime Habitat for Humanity volunteer. The house that the Musazay family will move into was named in Deyoe's honor. She died in December 2008.

"In her honor, at least financially, I'll keep supporting Habitat," said an emotional Dick Deyoe, Joan's husband of 52 years and a longtime volunteer.

Also speaking Saturday were Amanda Allard and Mohammed Musazay.

Allard, a single mother of four, said she was grateful for the stability her own house will offer after she spent years moving from apartment to apartment. She and her children live in a two-bedroom apartment, she said.

"It will be good to come home to a house and have my own bedroom," her son, Jordan, 16, said.

Musazay, who also has four children, said he and his family have been living in his brother's house, but they needed to find a new place because his brother wants to sell the property.

Once Musazay qualified for the Habitat for Humanity program, it was a big relief and brought him peace of mind, he said.

Habitat for Humanity builds housing for low-income families nationwide. A qualifying annual income for a family of four is about \$16,000 to \$30,000, executive director Curt Andino said. Nine single mothers with children live at the Fairview Cottages, and statistics show that 45 percent of single mothers with children live in poverty in Thurston County, he said.

Fairview Cottages was a \$1.7 million project that started in 2006.

After the Fairview Cottages are complete, South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity will embark on Shepherd's Grove in Tumwater. It consists of five cottage-style homes that the organization will try to build in one year in the 5100 block of Henderson Boulevard, Andino said. The \$700,000 project already is fully funded, he said.