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Habitat for Humanity program selects Lacey Licensing Service Representative

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The dream of owning a home will soon be a reality for Mohamed Sahli, a licensing services representative working in the Lacey Licensing Services Office, and his family. Mohamed, his wife Mariam, his three-year-old daughter Tala, and a baby boy named Suliman (expected on November 15th), were among four Thurston County families selected to receive help building a new home through the Habitat for Humanity program this year.

“We are very happy to be selected to participate in the Habitat program,” Mohamed said. “My family and I are thankful; it is a dream come true for us. It is a good feeling to build and own your house.”

Of course, building your own house is a lot of work. The Sahli family will be investing at least 500 hours of their own “sweat equity” into the project, and they are always looking for extra volunteer help.

“It would mean a lot to my family for DOL people to volunteer to build our house, because all of my immediate family are in Libya,” Mohamed said. The Sahli family’s new house is located at 1800 Fairview Street NE in Olympia.

Volunteering opportunities will be on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. now through June 2009 when the house is expected to be finished. If you are interested in lending a hand, you can contact Mohamed for more information by emailing him at mohamedsahli@hotmail.com, or by calling him at 360-464-8971.

According to South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity, about 175 people attended orientations to learn more about applying for the program. Of those who attended, about 50 submitted applications. The applications were examined by a committee of community volunteers supervised by a member of the South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity staff. The applications are prioritized based on each family’s need for a change in their living situation, their willingness to invest the 500 of hours of sweat equity required to build their home, their ability to be financially responsible for their new home, and other factors.

“The Sahli family is a wonderful example of a family we’re happy to partner with,” South Puget Sound Habitat for Humanity Development Coordinator Susan Newman said.

“They are a family that will benefit from being involved in the program. With one young child and another due soon, they and their children will take advantage of the many benefits that accrue to homeowners, not the least of which is stability. That factor alone is one of the most important to the success of a child, in school and in life. Also, they will be a great addition to the community of homeowners at the Fairview Cottages.”