



We build strength, stability and self-reliance.

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## Guelph community is given opportunity to build local affordable homes from the ground up

GUELPH, ONT. – At a time when the words “affordable” and “home” are rarely heard together, Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph (Habitat WDG) is working with community partners, like the Guelph & District Association of REALTORS® (GDAR), to build vibrant and supportive communities that offer affordable homeownership as a platform to equity accumulation.

“It’s time to rethink and reapply the term *affordable housing*,” explains Steve Howard, CEO of Habitat WDG. “What’s affordable to my neighbour might not be affordable to me, but this does not mean that my living situation should lack the safety and decency that every person deserves in a home. We are determined to apply this thinking in our developments. With supporting partners like GDAR, we can build innovative, supportive and affordable communities that not only provide equity accumulation through home ownership, but also inspire families and individuals to build strong and integrated futures within our entire community. In our model, affordability turns into equity which results in future success, and that success positively impacts all of Guelph.”

By partnering with Habitat WDG, sponsoring an upcoming event, or donating to their annual giving campaign, *Building Home for the Holidays*, organizations and individuals alike can make a tangible impact on their community through funding the development of Habitat’s latest build, Cityview Village, a 30-home development comprised of single-and-dual parent families, people with disabilities and seniors. Funds can also be allocated to future large-scale builds, such as the former IMICO site which Habitat WDG envisions as an “urban village”.

“As Foundation Partner with Habitat WDG, we can physically see the impact that we’re making on our community,” explains Kristi Mercier, President, of the Guelph & District Association of REALTORS®. “As REALTORS®, we know the importance of a solid foundation. The foundation is not only what makes a house strong – it makes a family strong. The foundation of the home represents stability and strength, both of which are provided to homeowners through the Habitat model.”

“It’s important for the community to know that each person can play a role in building a city where everyone has a safe, decent and affordable place to live,” explains Howard. “While partnerships, such as ours with GDAR, fund major portions of the builds, there is still a long way to go and we need our community to help us get there. This holiday season when you think of giving, please consider supporting those who are wishing for a place to call home, and donate to your local Habitat. Every donation helps us build homes, one piece at a time.”

To learn more about Habitat WDG builds, including how to support the builds, please visit [habitatwdg.ca](http://habitatwdg.ca).

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### **About the Habitat for Humanity Model**

Based on a partnership between the family, the community, volunteers and the private sector, Habitat for Humanity brings communities together to help build strength, stability and independence through affordable homeownership. Habitat's model bridges an important gap in the housing continuum. On one side of this continuum is social housing and rental housing, and on the other side is market homeownership. Habitat for Humanity bridges that gap, providing an opportunity for families that would otherwise have no chance at homeownership. Habitat does not give away free homes – Habitat homeowners pay for their homes, through an affordable mortgage that is never more than 30 percent of their income. By providing families with access to affordable homeownership, Habitat is an important part of the solution to Canada's housing crisis.

### **Benefits to Home Ownership with the Habitat Model**

Every Habitat home built creates a social return on investment of \$175,000 for the local community. Research has shown that Habitat families are happier, healthier and rely less on food banks and other social services. Access to safe and decent housing also helps build a strong and stable foundation for a better future – children who grow up in a Habitat home do better in school and are more likely to pursue a post-secondary education.

### **About Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph**

Since 2000, Habitat WDG has been building homes and building community. Expanding on our Mission to build affordable housing and promote homeownership to break the cycle of poverty, Habitat for Humanity Wellington Dufferin Guelph is planning to build bright, supportive and integrated communities comprised of seniors, special needs individuals, and single-and-dual parent families across our catchment area of Wellington County and Dufferin. Our first development, underway now, is Cityview Village. More information can be found at [www.cityviewvillage.ca](http://www.cityviewvillage.ca).