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MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

74-year old Veteran Santiago lost his son and may soon lose his legs, but he will not lose his home. Habitat for Humanity and Community Rally Together to Rebuild Hope for a Local Veteran

On Thursday, September 8th Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento with the help of Home Depot and other local community support will begin a very special project for a local Veteran in need of home repairs. Santiago is a 74-year old Veteran who served active duty in Vietnam as a short jumper and is currently living in a nearly uninhabitable home with severe roof leakage, dry rot, and mold.

Following his service in the war, Santiago returned home to Sacramento, worked for over 40 years, purchased his home, raised his two children there, and retired. Now nearly 50 years since entering the war, he still suffers from his time there due to Agent Orange exposure which caused him to contract very severe diabetes. He is expected to lose his legs soon. Additionally, Santiago lost his son this February, the day before Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento first visited him. The loss is still very fresh.

The repairs needed on Santiago's home include mold remediation, complete roof replacement, replacement of non-operable heating and air unit, updating the bathroom with accessibility features, replacing the resurfacing the bathroom countertops, replacing the flooring, replacing countertops and cabinet doors, repairing and painting damaged drywall, replacing damaged interior doors, repairing the stucco and repainting the exterior of the house, installing gutters and downspouts where missing, minor plumbing repairs, and repairing and replacement of miscellaneous electrical fixtures throughout the house.

The project was made possible through both cash and in-kind donations from local businesses and individuals, including \$40,000 in Home Depot gift cards. The remodel is expected to take 6-8 weeks and wrap up shortly before Veteran's day.

Said Santiago during his most recent visit from Habitat, "At first I didn't believe it, that you [Habitat] would help, I'm still not sure I do. But you have my gratitude nonetheless. It's a hurdle this place and I never dreamed someone would help me get over it."

This will be Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento's inaugural Veteran project of the organization's new Veteran Home Repairs program.

- **What:** Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento, Home Depot, and the local community come together to repair a home for a local Vietnam Veteran in need.
- **Who:** Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento and Home Depot, with support from InterWest Insurance Services, the Air Warrior Courage Foundation, Bell Brothers, Capital City Drywall, City of Elk Grove, Kavanah, Select Environment, Thrivent Builds, Bank of the West, the Elk Grove Lion's Club, Frank's Carpet, Gene Swehla, Hanford Ready Mix, James Gaydos, Preson Hanford, Whirlpool, Kevin Spease, and numerous donations from the local community.
- **When:** Construction begins Thursday, September 8th, 2016 at 7:30am
- **Where:** [8700 Bray Vista Way Elk Grove, CA 95624](#)
- **Visuals:** Before remodel visuals of the home including holes in the ceiling and black mold, 25 Team Depot volunteers beginning the construction demo of the home, and interview opportunities with Santiago, Habitat staff, and volunteers.

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About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento: Celebrating 31 years of building hope and homes in Sacramento and Yolo County, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento builds and repairs homes in partnership with the local community. Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International and has built 134 homes in Sacramento and Yolo County. Those interested in supporting our work or volunteering can find more information on our website: www.habitatgreatersac.org or can follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/HabitatGreaterSac](https://www.facebook.com/HabitatGreaterSac), Twitter [@SacHabitat](https://twitter.com/SacHabitat), and Instagram [@SacHabitat](https://www.instagram.com/SacHabitat).