



## National Women Build Week

### PRESS RELEASE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Over 17,000 Women across the Country will join Habitat for Humanity and Lowe's for National Women Build Week**

*100 local Sacramento women will join and take part in National Women Build Week by framing and raising walls on a new Habitat home.*

**Sacramento, CA, (April 29, 2016)** – Today, from noon-1:30pm the [Lowe's Home Improvement in West Sacramento](#) will be hosting a "how-to" construction clinic for volunteers leading up to Habitat for Humanity's National Women Build Week.

Today's clinic in Sacramento will go over the essentials of how to frame and raise walls. Over the course of next week, from Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>-Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, over 100 local Sacramento Women Build and Lowe's Heroes employee volunteers will aid in framing and raising the first story walls on a new Habitat home on [3617 Clay Street](#). The recipient of the home will be the Belisau family, a low-income family of six who is currently working on their 500 hours of sweat equity.

Similar clinics are taking place all across the country in preparation for National Women Build Week, which is expected to engage over 17,000 women in building and repairing homes with Habitat for Humanity. Taking place April 30-May 8, National Women Build Week encourages women across the country to devote at least one day to help families build strength, stability and self-reliance through housing in their local communities.

Now in its seventh year, National Women Build Week challenges women to devote at least one day to help build affordable housing in their local communities. The week also spotlights the homeownership challenges faced by women.

Says Laine Himmelmann, who handles the Women Build program in Sacramento, "Of the last 12 homes that we have completed, a quarter of them are headed by single mothers – all of whom contributed the 500 hours of sweat equity all by themselves while working full-time jobs. Women Build is such a powerful and inspiring program for us for us to be a part of and a great example of what can be accomplished when we roll up our sleeves and coming together to help others."

Lowe's helped launch National Women Build Week in 2008 and each year provides the support of Lowe's Heroes and conducts how-to clinics at stores to teach volunteers construction skills. Lowe's donated \$1.75 million

to this year's National Women Build Week, including a \$5,000 store gift card to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento as part of a new five-year partnership with Habitat that will bring Lowe's total contributions to more than \$63 million since 2003. In celebration of this renewed partnership, Lowe's and Habitat launched Hammers for Habitat, a volunteer initiative inviting men and women across America to give one day to help make the dream of homeownership a reality for a family in their community. To learn more, visit [Habitat.org/Lowes](http://Habitat.org/Lowes).

"As part of National Women Build Week, we're encouraging women across America to raise a hammer to help create safe and affordable housing in partnership with local families," said Joan Higginbotham, Lowe's director of community relations. "We thank our Lowe's Heroes and the thousands of volunteers who will help strengthen communities throughout the country this week."

The U.S. Census Bureau reports more than 16.1 million children are living in poverty in the United States. Nearly 24 percent of children reside with women heads-of-household. In Sacramento, the last census showed that there were over 17,000 families in need of affordable housing.

Habitat's Women Build program recruits, educates and inspires women to build and advocate for simple, decent and affordable homes in their communities. Since the program was created in 1998, more than 2,200 homes have been built in partnership with low-income families using Women Build crews. More than 52,000 women from all 50 states have volunteered at the six previous Women Build Week events.

For more information on Habitat for Humanity's Women Build program, visit [Habitat.org/wb](http://Habitat.org/wb) or the National Women Build Week tab on <http://www.facebook.com/habitat>.

### **About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento**

Celebrating 30 years of building hope and homes in Sacramento and Yolo County, Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento builds and repairs homes and 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 131 homes in Sacramento and Yolo County. Those interested in supporting our work or volunteering can find more information on our website: [www.habitatgreatersac.org](http://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).

### **About Habitat for Humanity International**

Habitat for Humanity International's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Anchored by the conviction that housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty, Habitat has helped more than 4 million people construct, rehabilitate or preserve homes since 1976. Habitat also advocates to improve access to decent and affordable shelter and supports a variety of funding models that enable families with limited resources to make needed improvements on their homes as their time and resources allow. As a nonprofit Christian housing organization, Habitat works in more than 70 countries and welcomes people of all races, religions and nationalities to partner in its mission. To learn more, donate or volunteer visit [habitat.org](http://habitat.org).

### **About Lowe's**

Lowe's, a FORTUNE® 100 home improvement company, has a 50-year legacy of supporting the communities it serves through programs that focus on K-12 public education and community improvement projects. Since 2007, Lowe's and the [Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation](http://Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation) together have contributed nearly \$200 million to these efforts, and for more than two decades [Lowe's Heroes](http://Lowe's Heroes) employee volunteers have donated their time to make our communities better places to live. To learn more, visit [Lowes.com/SocialResponsibility](http://Lowes.com/SocialResponsibility) and [LowesInTheCommunity.tumblr.com](http://LowesInTheCommunity.tumblr.com).