



London family comes home for the holidays

LONDON, ON, November 16, 2011 – Christmas will come early for Londoner Hamid Rashid, his wife and three children when they receive keys to a new home this weekend thanks to [Habitat for Humanity London](#), [Libro Financial Group](#) and [Habitat for Humanity UWO](#).

A Dedication Ceremony for the new Rashid home at 578 Highbury Avenue will take place on November 20 at 1 p.m.

The home is a dream come true for the Rashids, who searched for two years for a safe, decent and affordable home for their family until being connected with Habitat for Humanity London. The house was built by Habitat for Humanity UWO, a student club at Western in existence since 2007, and is the second of three [Habitat London Youth Projects](#) planned over three years. Last year, the former site of the Outlaws clubhouse on Egerton Street was transformed to include three Habitat homes, one of which was a home for the Hernandez/Herrera family in the first phase of the project.

Habitat for Humanity UWO and Libro have shared the construction costs of the homes and each have committed \$37,500 to build the 2011 Rashid home. The students will be fundraising until April 2012 to meet their contribution.

"We couldn't be more pleased to be celebrating the completion of the second successful Youth Project with our partners, Libro Financial Group and Habitat for Humanity UWO," said Jeff Duncan, CEO of Habitat for Humanity London. "The extraordinary support and drive these two partners have demonstrated made it possible for another qualified Habitat family to experience the benefits of homeownership."

Radha Joseph, Habitat London Youth Project Chair, said the project is an ideal fit for the students.

"In my experience, youth are incredibly passionate about creating positive social change, by word and by action," she said. "This is a unique hands-on opportunity for London youth to raise awareness, develop critical skills and most of all, build a home of hope."

Libro supports the initiative through its [Community Investment Builder Program](#), which gives youth opportunities to develop leadership and career skills. Bonnie Hardy, Owner Representative, Libro Financial Group, said Libro is pleased to support the Habitat London Youth Project in its second year of a three-year commitment totaling \$112,500.

"The funding is key in assisting Habitat UWO's youth leaders in growing the necessary skills and relationships in the London community to sustain the project beyond the granting

period," she said. "We along with our community, congratulate and celebrate with the new homeowners!"

WHAT: Habitat London Youth Project Dedication Day

WHERE: 578 Highbury Avenue, London

WHEN: November 20, 1 p.m.

Media opportunity: Photo and interview opportunities with project partners and Rashid family

About Habitat for Humanity London

Habitat for Humanity London believes that every man, woman and child has the right to the confidence, security and hope that a home provides. Affordable housing is key to building strong, equitable and thriving communities. By mobilizing volunteers and community partners, we can build affordable housing and promote homeownership as a means of breaking the cycle of poverty. Amazing things happen to people when you "address" them.

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