



## "The House That REALTORS® Built": North Puget Sound Association Partners with Skagit Habitat for Humanity

REALTORS®, by definition, help people find a place to call home. This is their job. This is their expertise.



Now, in Skagit County, the North Puget Sound Association of REALTORS® has taken this concept one step further by sponsoring "The House That the REALTORS® Built" through Skagit Habitat for Humanity. By combining funds raised through its annual golf tournament with financial donations from its members, the association was able to sponsor one of eight homes at the new Habitat Place housing development in Mount Vernon.

"We are delighted that the Association of REALTORS® agreed to take on a full house sponsorship," said Hardy VanRy, executive director of Skagit Habitat for Humanity. "The REALTORS® have been generous donors for the past several years, but this is the first time I have heard of a REALTOR® association taking on such a Habitat project." The association's house was completed in March in conjunction with local volunteers and Habitat partner families.

The REALTORS® have provided a safe, warm, affordable home for a hard-working mother and her four children. Following the final celebration ceremony of her home on May 20, this new Habitat homeowner stated, "Knowing that our home was built on faith, in love, by people who still believe in helping people help themselves has renewed my faith in community and provided me an opportunity to purchase my own home in dignity through patience, dedication, and hard work. Thank you."

Habitat houses are sold to partner families at no profit, financed with affordable, no-interest loans. The homeowners' monthly mortgage payments are then recycled into a revolving fund that is used to build more houses. Partner Families must invest a minimum of 500 hours of "sweat equity" on their house, as well as other Habitat projects. Skagit Habitat builds houses with people, not for people.

The North Puget Sound Association of REALTORS® has already made plans to collaborate on another Skagit Habitat for Humanity project later this year. It is hoped that this continuing partnership will assist other families in their quest for homeownership, and possibly inspire other associations throughout Washington to form similar relationships with Habitat for Humanity.

Article and photo provided by Mary Scollard, North Puget Sound REALTOR® Association. Posted 6/28/01. Archived 8/2/01.

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