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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GREATER SAN FRANCISCO FIXING UP FIVE HOMES ON TWO BLOCKS
IN EAST PALO ALTO DURING INAUGURAL *BUILDING BLOCKS* EVENT
September 23-25

EAST PALO ALTO — Sept. 23-25, 2015 — Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco will host its inaugural *Building Blocks: EPA* event September 23-25, mobilizing volunteers to make repairs at five homes on two adjacent blocks in East Palo Alto.

Building Blocks: EPA will highlight Habitat Greater San Francisco's Neighborhood Revitalization program, which aims to extend the work of Habitat for Humanity into the neighborhoods where it builds – beautifying parks, renovating community assets like schools and community centers and delivering critical home repairs to improve the health, safety and well-being of residents on a large scale.

The *Building Blocks: EPA* event will bring hundreds of volunteers to repair fences, landscape and make exterior repairs on five homes along Brentwood Court and Terra Villa Street. Habitat Greater San Francisco partners with Rebuilding Together Peninsula to find and connect with homeowners in East Palo Alto who need repairs. During the *Building Blocks: EPA* event Rebuilding Together Peninsula will be completing interior repairs in collaboration with San Mateo County Fall Prevention Task Force in observation of Fall Prevention Awareness Week (Sept. 23-29).

Seventh Day Adventist Church at 994 Beech Street will serve as the staging ground for the week, as well as the location of the celebratory block party on Friday Sept. 25. The party is open to the community as well as the volunteers and homeowners who participate in *Building Blocks: EPA*.

Habitat Greater San Francisco has built or renovated 38 homes in East Palo Alto in our 26-year history including its first six homes on Beech Street in East Palo back in 1989 and 1990.

“Our home repair program is about supporting homeownership. We don't just want people to attain homeownership, but maintain homeownership as well,” said Kristine Leja, interim CEO and Chief Development Officer of Habitat Greater San Francisco. “By utilizing our core skills as a construction company and mobilizing our community volunteers, we can truly improve a family's day-to-day living situation while making a bigger impact one block at a time.”

Habitat Greater San Francisco focuses its Neighborhood Revitalization effort on two neighborhoods: San Francisco's Bayview Hunter's Point and East Palo Alto in San Mateo County. These neighborhoods were chosen because they have a high volume of long-time homeowners, many who need repairs but may not be able to afford them, and because Habitat Greater San Francisco has a history of building homes in these neighborhoods.

“This block build is a reflection of what Rebuilding Together Peninsula does best - bringing people and resources together to help our neighbors in need,” said Rebuilding Together Peninsula’s Associate Director, Cari Pang Chen.

Through the home repair program, Habitat Greater San Francisco has repaired decks, staircases and fences and replaced leaking or damaged windows and doors, fixed holes in drywall, repaired siding and replaced roofs. These changes improve safety and health for long-time homeowners and can allow senior homeowners to remain living in their homes independently, rather than having to sell their homes or move.

About Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco builds homes and community in partnership with thousands of annual volunteers, hard-working families, donors, civic leaders and other engaged community members in Marin, San Francisco and on the Peninsula. The work supporters help us do provides a critical path to financial security for families who live and work here and strengthens neighborhoods across the Bay Area. Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco has built more than 200 affordable homes in the Bay Area and is currently building Habitat Terrace, a development of 28 single-family homes in San Francisco’s Ocean View neighborhood, and Mt. Burdell Place, a 10-home development in Novato. Those interested in supporting our work or volunteering with us can find more information at our website: www.habitatgsf.org or can follow us on facebook at facebook.com/habitatgsf or twitter @habitatgsf.

About Rebuilding Together Peninsula

Rebuilding Together Peninsula is a safe and healthy housing organization that believes community starts at home. Our focus provides critical repairs, accessibility modifications and energy efficient upgrades to low-income homes and community centers at no cost to service recipients. Each year, Rebuilding Together Peninsula serves approximately 200 homeowners and 25 community facilities from Daly City to Sunnyvale, impacting nearly 25,000 people. Our impact extends beyond the individuals served to revitalize and stabilize vulnerable neighborhoods and communities across the Peninsula. *Mission:* Bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low-income homeowners. *Vision:* A safe and healthy home for every person. If you are interested in supporting our work in the community or volunteer opportunities, visit: www.RTPeninsula.org or follow us at facebook.com/RebuildingTogetherPeninsula to learn more.