

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION HABITAT FOR HUMANITY DEDICATES TWO HOMES IN BRYAN NEIGHBORHOODS

April 12, 2014

BRYAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT PROVIDES DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE



Bryan City Council Members Al Saenz and Rafael Peña present a Habitat for Humanity homebuyer at 813 Denise with a gift basket from the City.

City of Bryan Community Development staff participated at two Habitat for Humanity home dedications on Saturday morning, along with Bryan City Council members Al Saenz and Rafael Peña, who presented gift baskets to the new homebuyer families.

813 Denise caps the successful development of 24 homes within the past 18 months which Habitat completed on Bryan's east side at the corner of E. MLK and Military in the Faith Subdivision. The homebuyer family received Down Payment Assistance from the City's HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The home was sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church of College Station. The City of Bryan also assisted Habitat with grant planning for the Self-help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) grant which partially funded the infrastructure for the subdivision.

In another example of successful collaboration between Habitat and the City in northeast Bryan, property for a seven home

development bounded by Douglas and Frankfort Streets in the Castle Heights neighborhood was awarded to Habitat under a competitive Request for Proposal process. 1416 Frankfort is the fourth home to be constructed and sold in the development. The home was sponsored by the Nina Heard Astin Charitable Trust, and the homebuyer family received HOME program Down Payment Assistance through the City.

Bryan College Station Habitat for Humanity has constructed over 235 homes in the community, each of which requires about 550 volunteer labor hours. Participants in the Habitat program typically earn 60% or less of the Area Median Income (Currently \$33,100 for a household of 4), participate in a formal homebuyer training program, and contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity" constructing their home as well as their neighbors'. Zero-interest loans for 20 to 30 years help to make the homes affordable.



Bryan City Council Members Al Saenz and Rafael Peña present a Habitat for Humanity homebuyer at 1416 Frankfort with a gift basket from the City.

Commenting at the Dedication Ceremony, Al Saenz, City of Bryan Council Member for Single Member District 1, stated, "We would like to express our thanks to the Habitat organization, the volunteers and underwriters, and to the families. Welcome to the family of homeowners in the City of Bryan!"