



HOME and Garden

Habitat home complete

Blanca and Maria Sanchez, new homeowners on Morris Street

The Sanchez family has a brand-new home of its own, thanks to the combined efforts of the Living Enrichment Center, Portland Habitat for Humanity and the family itself.

All will celebrate the completion of the house with a dedication ceremony from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug 9, at the house, 202 NE Morris Street.

Blanca Segovia Sanchez and Maria Sanchez, who work as housekeepers at a local hotel, will take ownership of the new, five-bedroom home by making affordable monthly payments on their zero-interest, zero-profit mortgage from Habitat.

The women, their mother Rosa Elva Sanchez and the eight children who comprise the family have lived for the past two years in two cramped Housing Authority apartments.

They are excited about bringing the family together again under one roof. Ever hard-working and gracious, the women have completed more than the required 400 hours of "sweat equity" to help earn their new home.

"It's a beautiful feeling to be able to live in a house that we have worked for and to help other people get houses," Maria Sanchez said through a translator.

The Sanchez home is sponsored by the Living enrichment Center, a Wilsonville-based congregation.

LEC members raised the \$50,000 needed to build the house by holding a Valentine's Day ball and other fundraisers

Nurturing our environment



Brittany Wheeler (from left), Ann Ishimaru, Jannene Malone and Evette Lewis unwind wire from a young tree at Whitaker Ponds in northeast Portland. On Saturday, more than 70 residents turned out for "Reclaim the Slough Day" organized by the Urban League of Portland to clean up the waterway and make it a place for recreation.

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