



Mississippi
Alberta
North Portland

METRO

Vancouver
East County
Beaverton

Home Building Dreams

East Portland Habitat for Humanity blitz

Twenty-five percent of Portland's population lives east of I-205, an area with low homeownership and high poverty rates that has been underinvested by the city.

This month, four professional home builders teamed with Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East to do something about it. Four homes in southeast Portland were built from the ground up, helping to provide affordable housing options in the Centennial Neighborhood.

As part of a nationwide Habitat event called Home Builders Blitz 2012, the Portland builders Fish Construction NW, Neil Kelly, Reilly Signature Homes and Schumacher Custom Homes, along with local trades contractors and suppliers, donated labor and materials to get these homes built in one week.

The event culminated on June 8 when the four families received keys to their new homes at a home dedication Ceremony.

The families purchasing these homes have already put in 500 hours of sweat equity and will make monthly house payments that include taxes, insurance, and principal on the zero-percent interest mortgage.

The Home Builders Blitz was started in 2002 by Tom Gipson, a professional home builder in Raleigh, N.C., who supported Habitat for Humanity's ef-

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Silidio Ntiranyibagira and his daughter Anelise Nzocumugani are among a group of hardworking families who are becoming first time homeowners in east Portland thanks to a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and local home builders. From a family of six, they moved to Oregon in 2007 after fleeing the war-torn country of Burundi in central Africa and then refugee camps in Tanzania.