



## News Release

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### Habitat for Humanity Tucson Begins Down Payment Assistance Program with Old Pueblo Community Services *Will help more local families become homeowners!*

TUCSON, Ariz. (April 5, 2010) – In an effort to offer more local families a hand up into homeownership, Habitat for Humanity Tucson has partnered with Old Pueblo Community Services to offer down-payment assistance grants. The program is designed to assist those who qualify for a traditional mortgage but need help saving for a down-payment.

“We’re excited to be partnering with Old Pueblo Community Services,” said Michael McDonald, Habitat Tucson Executive Director. “Traditionally, we’ve simply focused on building homes, but what’s most important is partnering with hard-working families to entrepreneurially achieve the American dream of homeownership in this changing economy”

Habitat for Humanity Tucson will continue its basic principles of “a hand up; not a hand-out” through the Down Payment Assistance Program. A family cannot earn more than 80% of the area median income to qualify. Additionally, each recipient is required to provide 25 hours of community service and must complete home purchase counseling and a First Time Home Buyer Education Class.

One grant recipient, Jen Lauten, talks about the benefits of the community service requirement and her experience delivering meals to members of the Tucson community in need.

“My experience was refreshing in many ways because I really loved connecting with the people I was helping. They always seemed so grateful to see me and I loved that I was playing a role in one of their most basic needs,” said Lauten. “I felt inspired by the power of kindness and was reminded of how important that is to perpetuate in the world.”

From May 2009 through May 2010, Habitat Tucson hopes to award 14 families a down-payment assistance grant.

For more information please visit [www.habitattucson.org/down-payment](http://www.habitattucson.org/down-payment).

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*Habitat for Humanity Tucson offers an innovative solution to the crisis of poverty housing by giving a hand up, not a hand out. Rooted in the shared impulses of all faith traditions to care for our most at-risk and vulnerable neighbors, Habitat for Humanity Tucson works to end poverty housing by creating opportunities for homeownership in partnership with low-income families; and by making decent shelter a matter of community conscience and action.*

*The mission of the Housing Department at Old Pueblo Community Services’ is to assist first-time home buyers and current homeowners with educational support, guidance and confidence at each level of your homeownership.*

*We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) a HUD Certified Housing Counseling Agency, plus a City of Tucson, Pima County and Arizona State certified Community Housing Development Organization.*