



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

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***Building the Beloved Community with Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity
Events Run from Martin Luther King Jr. Day to UN World Interfaith Harmony Week***

Colorado Springs, CO (Jan. 30, 2023) — Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity has launched a three-week initiative focused on “Building the Beloved Community,” launching Martin Luther King Jr. Day and continuing through United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week Feb. 1-7.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, a film crew from Interfaith America will be on-site at Pikes Peak Habitat’s [Interfaith Build for Unity](#) home construction project, 845 Bidwell Dr. in The Ridge at Sand Creek. Volunteer groups from various faith traditions will work on the home throughout the day. **An opportunity for media coverage takes place from 11:30 a.m.-noon**, when participants will sign the wood framing with prayers and blessings for the new homeowner.

The initiative culminates with “Building the Beloved Community in El Paso County: An Interfaith Response to Racial Inequity in Homeownership” on Sunday, Feb. 5., 4-6 p.m., at the U.S. Air Force Academy Community Chapel, 5134 Cathedral Dr. No filming, photography or audio recording will be allowed. Registration to this free community event is [open now](#).

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An initiative of Pikes Peak Habitat in association with the Pikes Peak Inter Faith Coalition and the 10th Air Base Wing Community Chapel, the event features a panel of experts who will discuss barriers to homeownership, the racial homeownership gap, and local examples of “building the beloved community.” Following the panel, attendees can participate in a unique, facilitated, interfaith dialogue discussion over a shared meal.

Confirmed panelists are Catherine Duarte, HUD Programs Manager, [Community Development Division City of Colorado Springs](#); James Johnson, Property Acquisitions Manager, [Solid Rock CDC](#); Max Kronstadt, Co-Founder, [Pro-Housing Partnership](#); and Raju Patel, Senior Vice President, President Bank of America Colorado & Market Executive, [Bank of America](#).

Pikes Peak Habitat launched our Building the Beloved Community initiative with a volunteer event Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, at both the Northeast ReStore, 6250 Tutt Blvd., 80923, and the South ReStore, 411 S. Wahsatch Ave., 80903. In addition to assisting at the stores, volunteers had the opportunity to sign the Habitat for Humanity [Beloved Community pledge](#). Community members also can [sign the pledge online](#) or at either ReStore through Feb. 5.

Throughout the initiative, Pikes Peak Habitat’s [website](#) offers suggestions for raising awareness and taking action. In addition, daily challenges [posted online](#) during U.N. World Interfaith Harmony Week encourage participants to explore racial barriers to homeownership, local housing policies and interfaith engagement. Participants who complete four out of seven challenges will be eligible to receive a prize.

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About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in El Paso County. We construct permanent, affordable homes in partnership with the community and prospective homebuyers, who purchase their homes with affordable mortgages. In addition, our home repair program works with seniors, veterans and other cost-burdened homeowners in El Paso County, who “pay it forward” by serving their communities. Pikes Peak Habitat has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1986 and has partnered with more than 200 families in El Paso County. For more information, visit <http://www.pikespeakhabitat.org> and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

About UN World Interfaith Harmony Week

In 2010 the UN General Assembly proclaimed the first week in February on an annual basis as World Interfaith Harmony Week. The purpose is to showcase the importance of interfaith dialogue among people of diverse faith backgrounds, belief systems, and spiritual practices, spreading the message of goodwill, and respect for others. During this week, the UN calls on individuals, nations, and faith communities from around the world to join them in celebrations of this event, and recognize the importance of interfaith dialogue.