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Home is where the heart is – Four families to finally live their dream *Arapahoe County key supporter of the dedication of four Habitat for Humanity homes*

Littleton, Colo --- On Saturday, the first duplex of an eight home Habitat for Humanity project in Englewood welcomed its owners, a project made possible with the assistance of Arapahoe County HOME funds.

For Gail Hamilton the celebration was particularly special. Although blind, Hamilton participated fully in the volunteer homeowner requirements and even pounded nails on the roof of her new home.

"My life has been full of challenges and because of this generosity my heart soars knowing I will be able to financially support myself," said Hamilton. "Thank you for helping me see with my hands and feel with my heart. I will never forget this experience."

Preschool teacher and hardworking single mother Kris Clay fought back tears of joy when she explained that her new home will allow her not to have to work so many hours to make ends meet and that she'll be able to give her 12-year-old daughter Haleigh the time she deserves. And she was excited that her daughter would finally have her own bedroom where she'll be able to have her first sleepover.

Another dedication to two more families will be held Wednesday. It celebrates the dream of home ownership through months of hard labor done almost entirely by volunteers. In late November, Arapahoe County assembled a team of volunteers, including Commissioner Pat Noonan, who spent a day hammering, sawing and roofing the homes.

"Arapahoe County is proud to support programs that develop quality attainable housing," said Commissioner Noonan. "In 2007, we gave Habitat for Humanity \$260,000 to acquire the Englewood property and provide safe and affordable homes for eight deserving families."

Habitat for Humanity provides homes with low mortgage payments to stable, income eligible families. Families selected for the homes are chosen by Habitat for Humanity based on housing need, income, stability and ability to repay their mortgage. The new homeowner must contribute between 250 - 500 hours in sweat equity toward building their home, along with many community volunteers and sponsor support.

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To download photos click on the following link: <ftp://www.co.arapahoe.co.us/Pub/CA/>

Photo captions:

Gail: 1) As a new Habitat for Humanity homeowner, Gail Hamilton, blind, said she received her wings to fly. As a tribute she sang "Somewhere over the rainbow."

Kris: 1) Kris Clay and her daughter share their gratitude for all those who worked on their home. 2) Kris and her daughter cut the ribbon to their new home.

HabitatHouse& Noonan photos: Thanks to the efforts of volunteers including Commissioner Pat Noonan, the Habitat for Humanity duplexes are now ready for their owners.