Habitat for Humanity®
of Sonoma County

We Did It!

Four Homes, Four Families, One Community

October 2026

Habitat Homeowners Jeremy & Melissa with their family (August 29, 2026)

After months of hard work, early mornings, sore muscles, and countless helping hands, four new homes at Blankenship Place have finally welcomed their families home.

What began as a vision to create affordable homeownership opportunities in Sebastopol has become something very real: four beautiful homes, four families, and a community that came together to make it possible.

Come along as we celebrate the final moments of the Blankenship Place homeownership journey, and the beginning of Home.

The Final Touches

Community Volunteer Eric tackling final landscaping tasks (August 25, 2026)

As summer came to a close, our construction team, community volunteers, and partners put the finishing touches on all four homes.

From landscaping and exterior work to interior painting, final carpet and flooring, mailbox installation, and adding the house numbers, there was still plenty to do. But with each completed task, Blankenship Place looked a little more like home.

A Day Worth Celebrating

Habitat Homeowner Alaina & her daughter, outside their new home (August 29, 2026)

Mark Blankenship handing over a gift to Habitat Homeowner Maria & her son (August 29, 2026)

On Saturday, August 29, we gathered at Blankenship Place for a special Home Dedication Celebration to mark the completion of four new affordable homes and celebrate the families who are beginning a new chapter in their new homes.

After months of construction, it was incredibly meaningful to see the four families surrounded by the people who helped make their homeownership dreams possible. Family, friends, volunteers, donors, community partners, Habitat staff, and neighbors came together to celebrate the milestone, and to recognize the incredible community effort behind these homes.

The celebration honored Jack and Phyllis Blankenship, whose longtime service as volunteers, Board members, and dedicated Habitat supporters helped shape the organization we are today. It also highlighted the many hands that brought these four homes to life. From the families' 500 hours of sweat equity to the countless hours contributed by volunteers and construction partners, Blankenship Place is a true reflection of what we can accomplish when we build together.

To mark this special milestone, each family received an antique lantern from Mark Blankenship that once belonged to his parents, Jack and Phyllis. The families also received beautiful handmade quilts from the Moonlight Quilters of Sonoma County, lovingly created and donated to welcome each family into their new home.

There were plenty of smiles, hugs, happy tears, and proud moments as we celebrated four families on the doorstep of their new homes. And while the homes were officially dedicated that day, there was still one exciting milestone ahead: the keys.

Read our full Dedication Story

We Made the Paper! Read the Story

Next Stop: Home

With the dedication behind us and the final construction work complete, there was just one major milestone left: the keys.

And now, the keys are in their hands.

On Friday September 25, 2026, all four families closed escrow and received the keys to their new Habitat homes. That key represents so much more than a front door. It represents:

- The opportunity to build stability, put down roots, and create a future in a home they can afford and call their own.
- Hundreds of hours of sweat equity and months of hard work.
- What can happen when a community decides that affordable homeownership is worth building together.

For us, it's the moment we've been working toward since the first plans were drawn back in 2021. For these four families, it's the beginning of something entirely new.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Blankenship Place possible. Your generosity, time, skills, and belief in the power of affordable homeownership helped transform an empty lot into four houses, and those four houses into homes. Together, you helped create not only places for families to live, but a stronger community in the process.

Want to help us build what comes next? We have two projects in our pipeline and incredible momentum to continue building affordable homes here in Sonoma County. Join us as we build the next chapter of affordable homeownership in our community.

Help Us Build What Comes Next

Advocacy Corner

40,000+ Affordable Homes: Why Prop 1 Matters

More than 40,000 potential affordable homes.
That's what's at stake when Californians vote on Proposition 1 this November.

Prop 1 would make a significant investment in affordable housing and homeownership opportunities for veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, working families, and other lower-income Californians. It would also help preserve thousands of existing affordable homes.

Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County, alongside Habitat affiliates across California, advocated for meaningful funding for affordable homeownership in this bond because we know that access to an affordable home can change what's possible for a family.

This month, we're celebrating four Sonoma County families as they receive the keys to their new Habitat homes. Their stories are a powerful reminder that affordable homeownership doesn't just happen. It takes investment, advocacy, and a community willing to build something better together.

Now, it’s your turn to keep showing up. This November, we’re asking our community to learn more about Proposition 1, share why affordable housing matters, and make sure your voice is heard. Together, we can help move California toward a future where more families have a safe, affordable place to call home.

Let's Talk Housing

Volunteer Spotlight: Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club

The Golden Hammer & The Silver Saw take on Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County

Habitat is powered by people. This corner of the newsletter is where we’ll celebrate the incredible volunteers, staff, donors, partners and supporters who show up, pitch in, and make our work possible.

The Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club has been showing up for us in a big way. In early August, a group of Rotary volunteers spent two days working with us on landscaping and exterior maintenance at a local mobile home park (as a part of our Aging in Place relaunch -- more on this next month!), helping improve 12 homes for the residents.

And then there are Leroy “The Golden Hammer” and his buddy Rob “The Silver Saw.” These two have become familiar faces around Habitat, and we’re lucky to have them.

Leroy serves on our Build Committee, and as a retired Civil Engineer, helps with future project planning and our pipeline, and has also worked on the Blankenship Place build. Rob and his wife Betsy joined us at Blankenship Place to tackle interior finishes and painting.

Big job? Small job? Our Golden Hammer and Silver Saw are always ready to pitch in. The pair even built a frame for our door-pop photo booth at the Home Dedication! We're incredibly grateful to the entire Santa Rosa Sunrise Rotary Club for showing up for Habitat in so many ways!

We would love to see your service group featured here! Click the link below to sign up for our volunteer interest list or reach out to giving@habitatsoco.org directly to hear about upcoming opportunities!

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