



## Habitat for Humanity of Orange County

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### **Record high temperatures won't stop Camp Pendleton's Marines and Sailors from building a park in San Juan Capistrano** **From Iraq to San Juan Capistrano, these Marines and Sailors are happy to serve their country and their community as they "Come Back to Give Back"**

Santa Ana, CA, August 28, 2009 – Approximately 400 Marines and Sailors from Camp Pendleton will brave the heat this week as they volunteer to build a private park in the *Habitat for Heroes and Foundations for Families*™ development of homes in San Juan Capistrano.

For four days – August 31-September 3, 2009 – approximately 100 Marines and Sailors per day will trade their uniforms for blue jeans and travel to San Juan Capistrano to build a neighborhood park for the families who will live in this 27-home development. In addition to assisting on the five homes under construction, they will plant grass, flowers and trees, and pour the foundation for a flagpole for the new park at 24611 Calle Rolando.

The Marines and Sailors are from the 1<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Logistics Group at Camp Pendleton. They will be working on site from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on those four days.

"These Marines today are the best of our society," said Kevin Stewart, LtCol, USMC, Commanding Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Logistics Group. "They raised their hand to serve their country. Many will be going to Afghanistan and Iraq to serve. And this week, they have taken it upon themselves to come out here and give back. It shows the high quality of today's Marines. You can be proud of the Marines who are serving our country."

The local community is prepared to welcome the Marines and Sailors with open arms. Specially prepared lunches – a tasty alternative to Marine Corps chow hall food – will be delivered by local businesses, including:

- Monday, August 31 – Seaside Catering Company in Newport Beach
- Tuesday, September 1 – Sarducci's in San Juan Capistrano, sponsored by Parker Aerospace in Irvine
- Wednesday, September 2 – Eaton Corporation in Irvine
- Thursday, September 3 – Western Digital in Irvine

Many of the Marines and Sailors started building the Habitat homes in San Juan Capistrano during June 2008, before they deployed to Iraq. When they return to the Habitat homebuilding site this week, they will get to see the fruits of their labor. The homes they started building then are now completed, with landscaping, solar panels and happy families.

“We can't thank these Marines and Sailors enough for their willingness to help build affordable homes in this community,” said Sharon Ellis, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of Orange County. “In actuality, they are doing so much more than simply building a park. They are making dreams come true for three of their fellow Marines and six local civilian families. We are so grateful for this precious gift.”

For more information, please contact Gladys Hernandez at 714-434-6200 ext. 229.

#### **About Habitat for Humanity of Orange County**

*Celebrating 21 years of changing lives and changing communities in Orange County.*

##### ***134 houses built in Orange County***

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County, headquartered in Santa Ana, CA, is dedicated to ending substandard housing and building strong communities in Orange County. Habitat uses non-government donations of funding, materials, professional services and volunteer labor to build simple, decent homes which are sold to qualified low-income families for a 1% down payment, closing costs, and a long-term mortgage. Mortgage payments are recycled to build more Habitat homes. Habitat families contribute 500 hours of “sweat equity” to the program by building their own home, helping another Habitat family build a home, or working in some other area of the Habitat organization. Habitat for Humanity families and volunteers have built 134 homes in Orange County since 1988, and are currently building five homes in San Juan Capistrano, three homes in Yorba Linda, two homes in Fullerton and two homes in Westminster.

##### ***27 homes to be built in San Juan Capistrano***

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County's *Habitat for Heroes and Foundations for Families*<sup>TM</sup> development of 27 homes at the end of Calle Rolando will be built in phases. The first four homes have been completed, and construction continues on the next five homes.

Funding for the land on which these homes are being built was donated by the City of San Juan Capistrano Redevelopment Agency. Funds for building these homes have been generously donated by The HTN Foundation; Bank of America Charitable Foundation; the Orange County Realtors Partnership, which consists of the Orange County Association of REALTORS®, Laguna Board of REALTORS®, and Newport Beach Association of REALTORS®; an anonymous donor; the Steve Tisch Foundation; Toshiba; Thrivent Financial for Lutherans; Parker Aerospace & Eaton Corp. Partnership; the Presbyterian Partnership; Hands of Christ Lutheran Partnership; St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church in Dana Point; Change a Life Foundation; Hyundai Motor America; the Russell G. Van Cleve Family Foundation; and more than a thousand other local donors.

##### ***300,000 houses built worldwide***

Habitat for Humanity of Orange County is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, an ecumenical Christian housing ministry that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in 1976, Habitat International has built more than 300,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.5 million people. Habitat for Humanity International is currently the 10<sup>th</sup> largest homebuilder in the United States, according to Builder OnLine magazine.

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