



## WE'RE DOING IT TOGETHER!

May 2025

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### Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County Breaks Ground at Blankenship Place

On May 1st, Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County welcomed 56 guests to the Blankenship Place groundbreaking ceremony in Sebastopol. The event brought together community leaders, supporters, and future homeowners to celebrate the start of this transformative housing project.

Among the distinguished attendees were City of Sebastopol Mayor Zollman, Councilmembers Phill Carter and Neysa Hinton, as well as Acting City Manager/Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley. Habitat board members and local residents joined in the celebration to meet the four families selected as future Habitat homeowners—soon to be their neighbors.

Habitat recognized the many build partners who are making Blankenship Place a reality, including the City of Sebastopol, Coar Design Group, Ray Carlson & Associates, M.K.B. Construction, BC Engineering Group, Collins and Son Construction, 5th Generation Painting, Creative Roofing, and several foundations: Robert & Shirley Harris Foundation, E.C. Meilicke Foundation, Don Yoder Foundation. Special thanks went to event sponsor Poppy Bank.

A highlight of the day was the ceremonial groundbreaking featuring 11 gleaming gold

shovels—one of them Jack Blankenship's, a treasured symbol from many previous Habitat projects. The ceremony marked not just the start of construction but the beginning of a new chapter for families and the Sebastopol community alike.

[More info.....](#)

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Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Members,

May 1 marked a momentous occasion in the journey toward making affordable homeownership a reality for four selected families in our community. As we stood together at the groundbreaking ceremony for four new homes, Blankenship Place, I was filled with gratitude and excitement for the four families who will soon be able to say, "This is home."

This milestone represents not just the construction of houses, but the creation of stability, hope, and opportunity. These homes will provide a foundation for the families to grow, thrive, and build futures filled with possibility. The support and generosity from our volunteers, donors, and partners have made this day possible, and I want to extend my deepest thanks to each of you.

For over 41 years, Habitat for Humanity Sonoma County has been committed to our mission of making homeownership more accessible and affordable for families in need. The dream of homeownership is not just about walls and roofs—it's about providing families with the tools to build a better life. It's about a safe space for children to grow, a place where families can put down roots, and a symbol of what a community can achieve when we come together to make a difference.

The four families selected for these homes represent the heart of what we do at Habitat for Humanity: they are hard-working, dedicated individuals who are taking the first steps toward long-term stability. They have shown immense courage and perseverance throughout the application process, and we are honored to be part of their journey.

As we celebrated the groundbreaking of Blankenship Place on May 1, we know that this is just the beginning. With continued support, we will keep building—not just homes, but a stronger, more vibrant community where every family has the opportunity to thrive. Our work is far from over, and we are committed to serving those in need for as long as there is work to be done.

Thank you for your continued support and for believing in the power of affordable homeownership.

Together, we are changing lives, one home at a time.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Bove".

CEO, Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County

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**Affordable Housing Month:**



Spring is in full bloom but May brings more than warmer days and longer evenings—it brings a critical opportunity to talk about something that impacts all of us: *affordable housing*.

May is Affordable Housing Month, and here in Sonoma County, it couldn't be more relevant. The housing crisis isn't a distant issue—it's unfolding in our neighborhoods, affecting families, seniors, and essential workers who are being priced out of the community they help sustain.

## **The Challenge: Affordable Housing in our Community**

Sonoma County is a thriving, diverse place to live. But with growth comes a rising cost of living, and for too many, that means housing is simply out of reach.

In Sonoma County:

- Over 45% of renters are considered severely cost-burden. Most renters experience difficulty paying rent nearly all months, meaning they experience difficulty paying rent throughout the year (8-12 months per year).
- Aging housing stock and limited affordable options leave many residents living in unsafe or unstable conditions.

Behind these numbers are real people, parents working multiple jobs to keep a roof over their heads, seniors choosing between medication and repairs, and young adults struggling to stay near family and support systems. It's a quiet crisis with loud consequences.

[Learn more....](#)



**Help change lives in 2025  
and for generations to come**

**Support us today!**

[Donate now](#)





**ReStore**

# *ReSTORE ReCREATIONS*

**Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:00-8:00 pm**

**Habitat for Humanity ReStore**

**1201 Piner Road, Suite 500**

**Santa Rosa**

**cross street: Industrial Drive (Behind Harbor Freight)**

**FREE ADMISSION – ALL WELCOME!**

Please join us for an evening of community, as we celebrate the **Art of Upcycling!** Come and see what our Sonoma County artists, makers and flippers have created by transforming worn, used or discarded materials into unique and beautiful pieces. These one-of-a-kind items will be available for purchase through a silent auction.

- **LIVE MUSIC**
- **FOOD TRUCKS**
- **SILENT AUCTION**
- **BROWSE OUR HUGE STORE!**
- **FREE PARKING**

All proceeds will benefit the Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.

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email: [restorerecreations@habitatsoco.org](mailto:restorerecreations@habitatsoco.org) 707/568-3228

[donate@habitatsoco.org](mailto:donate@habitatsoco.org)

1201 Piner Road, Suite 500  
(Piner & Industrial Drive)  
Santa Rosa— (707) 568-3228

**Hours of Operation:**

Monday – Friday: 10:00 am-6:00 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Sunday: Closed

**Donations:**

Monday – Saturday 10:00 am-4:00 pm

**Make A Difference Today!**

Got an old car? Or maybe one that doesn't run anymore? Even if it's just sitting there, it can still make a difference!

Donate your car today and help fund affordable housing in our community.

- Free towing (if it has four inflated tires).
- Possible tax deduction.
- A new purpose for your old ride.

Turn your car into a fresh start for a family in need of decent housing.

Learn more <https://bit.ly/37tKx5S>



*Yes, I want to support Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County! (CLICK HERE)*



Charity Navigator  
4 Star Non-Profit



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Transparency Non-Profit

***Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County Brings People Together to Build Homes, Communities, and Hope***



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