



5.19.2021

Contact: Kevin Lawlor

Klawlor@buildwithstrength.com

202-253-6401

Habitat for Humanity of Butte County Partners with Build With Strength to Help Rebuild Paradise

Donated concrete for homes will strengthen affordable housing, making it more resilient and sustainable

[PARADISE, CA] — Habitat for Humanity of Butte County, the Paradise Ridge Chamber of Commerce, Paradise Mayor Steve Crowder and representatives of Build With Strength gathered on Wednesday for a ribbon cutting event to celebrate the construction of 3 new concrete homes in the Paradise community. Build With Strength is partnering with Habitat to fortify decent, affordable, and sustainable housing and members of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) have led the material donation efforts.

The homes in Paradise will be constructed using ICFs (insulated concrete forms). ICF is an innovative and fire-resistant material. This system will resist fire through a structural concrete core which will not weaken, warp, twist or burn, regardless of the heat. The homes will also include other fire-resistant materials and create defensible space.

Habitat for Humanity of Butte County has an additional 17 lots planned for construction in Paradise. The three on Garden View Lane are the first of the builds. Three families have been selected for these homes and all have deep roots in Paradise and are Camp Fire survivors. Two of the families are single moms with eleven-year-old boys and the other family is an adult son and his mom, who is deaf, and he is her caretaker. These families are looking forward to getting back to their hometown where they had lived, shopped and attended school. They are especially looking forward to being a part of rebuilding process.

Backed by the NRMCA, Build With Strength is a coalition of architects, builders, engineers, emergency services personnel, policymakers and others committed to solving challenging housing issues. Build With Strength is partnering with Habitat nationally to help further address those issues on a large scale.

“We are very excited to be a part of the rebuilding effort here in Paradise,” said Nicole Bateman, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Butte County. “This community above all deserves access to decent and affordable housing. It’s comforting to know that these homes will be more resilient to fire because of the material that we are using. The generous donations and partnership with the concrete industry will be felt for many years to come.”

The following organizations are donating materials for the builds: National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, A&A Ready Mix, Teichert, Mathews Ready Mix, Fox Blocks, Helix, Boral Roofing, Pan Pacific Cement, Lehigh Hanson Cement, Bob’s Concrete Pumping, APCA, ICFMA, CalCima, CSU, Chico, CalFlor and Mohawk.

“It’s been a rewarding experience to see all of these volunteers come together for such an important initiative,” said Gregg Lewis, Executive Vice President with the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association. “We are confident that

these homes will provide a safe place to live for the Habitat homeowners. We look forward to continued work with Habitat to help rebuild this community and others.”

These homes will be Habitat’s first homes built on the Ridge since the Camp Fire and construction will take place throughout 2021.

“There is no denying that the rebuilding effort has been difficult. However, it’s times like this that we in Paradise are given a sense of hope and optimism for the future,” said Crowder, who’s been a resident of Paradise since 2013. “I am thankful for Habitat and Build With Strength for leading this effort. Access to affordable and safe housing is a crucial aspect of the rebuild. Our community is forever grateful, and we hope to continue this momentum to building a stronger Paradise.”

State Senator Jim Nielsen, who represents Paradise, was also in attendance at the ribbon cutting event.

“The story of the Camp Fire will not be the devastation. It will be how the people of Paradise and the Ridge came back – their resilience,” said Nielsen, who has been a tireless advocate for the North State as it recovers from a series of deadly and catastrophic wildfires.

Funding Partners for Habitat for Humanity of Butte County also include: Paradise Rotary Foundation, Golden Valley Bank, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), State Farm Insurance, Duckhorn Wine Company, Thrivent Financial Personal Donation Fund of inFaith Community Foundation, Lowell Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, Dodge & Cox, Tri-Counties, Omega Nu of Chico, International Soroptimist of Chico, Mechanics Bank, Durham Rotary, Mar-Val Emporium Inc., North Valley Community Foundation and Butte Strong Fund, Bidwell Presbyterian, Mission Sistahs, Chico/Oroville/Paradise Association of Realtors, and many Individual Donors.

About National Ready Mixed Concrete Association

NRMCA is celebrating 90 years of representing the producers of ready mixed concrete and the companies that provide materials, equipment, and support to the industry. It conducts education, training, promotion, research, engineering, safety, environmental, technological, lobbying and regulatory programs. To learn more, visit <https://www.nrmca.org/>.

About Build With Strength

Build With Strength is a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association and works with communities, lawmakers, and industry employees to advocate for safer, sustainable building materials. To learn more, visit <https://buildwithstrength.com/>.

Habitat for Humanity of Butte County

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in Southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S., and in more than 70 countries. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit buttehabitat.org.

Learn more at www.buildwithstrength.com

###