



**A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION**

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**Habitat for Humanity of Missoula and Build With Strength Host Kickoff Event to Build Concrete Home for Local Family**

*Local community members and leaders joined to begin construction on the safe and affordable home.*

**[MISSOULA, MT]** — On Thursday, Habitat for Humanity of Missoula and Build With Strength hosted an open house event showcasing the first of its kind construction for a new home in Missoula. The home, which is being constructed using insulated concrete forms (ICFs) will be built purchased by a local family and building materials will be donated by National Ready Mixed Concrete Association member Knife River.

Jesse Ramos, Missoula City Council Member, Chad Bauer, Republic Services and Missoula Chamber of Commerce, and Steve Clawson, NorthWestern Energy and Missoula Chamber of Commerce were all in attendance at Thursday's event, which showcased the innovative and resilient construction method.

"Building with ICFs is a new experience for our organization," said Heather Harp, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Missoula. "Being able to build a home that offers peace of mind to a hard-working Missoula family has been made so much easier by using concrete. Because we've chosen to build this way, we'll be able to get the family moved in sooner and give them a home that they know will last them a lifetime."

"At a time when lumber prices are at an all-time high, building a home with concrete offers so many benefits" said Gregg Lewis, NRMCA's Executive Vice President, Promotion Strategy and Communications. "Not only will this home be affordable for the family, but it will offer them safety and sustainability for as long as they live here."

"From the time my son was born, I knew I wanted us to have our own home," said Abigail Carey of the Carey partner family. "Homeownership provides the stability we have missing and allows us to grow roots. We are so grateful for this opportunity."

The rising cost of wood construction has forced local affiliates like Habitat for Humanity of Missoula to rethink how they are building homes and supporting families. ICF blocks, which are stacked together similarly to "Legos," offer an option that is lightweight and easy for volunteers to assemble in addition to creating unparalleled energy efficiency for the home. The strength

and durability of these concrete and foam blocks will protect from the elements, and they will speed up the traditional construction timeline significantly.

Construction of the home will take place throughout the summer. For more information, please reach out to [tgilbert@ddcpublicaffairs.com](mailto:tgilbert@ddcpublicaffairs.com).

### **About Habitat for Humanity Missoula**

Since 1991 Habitat has created decent, affordable homes alongside local families earning 40 to 80% of the median area income. These homes are then sold to the families who helped construct them through a unique program to keep payments within the family's means. This process, called Habitat's 30-30-0-250 mortgage program, allows families to purchase a 30-year mortgage, with payments set at 30% of their income, zero interest, and the contribution of 250 hours of "sweat equity" work as the home is built.

This year Habitat is constructing three homes, the organization's 60th, 61st, and 62nd in Missoula County, alongside the Carey family of three, the Bird family of five, and the Young family of two. All our partner family's homes will be located in East Missoula. This is Habitat's second year building in the area.

Habitat for Humanity of Missoula's office and retail location, the Habitat ReStore, are located at 3655 MT Highway 200 East, Missoula, MT 59802. For more information, call 549-8210 or visit [www.habitatmsla.org](http://www.habitatmsla.org)

### **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/>.

Learn more at [www.buildwithstrength.com](http://www.buildwithstrength.com)

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