



Habitat Home Moves to Its Final Destination

With a police escort and under the watchful eyes of Habitat for Humanity officials, movers relocated a house from the Lake Perris Fairgrounds to the City's Downtown area that will become a home for a mother and her three children.

Volunteers donated hundreds of hours of work on the three-bedroom, 1088-square-foot house during the recently completed Southern California Fair, completing about two-thirds of the necessary construction.

The rest of the construction, including foundation and interior work and the installation of utilities, begins this week and with luck, should wrap up by Christmas.

City of Perris workers will be among the volunteers helping finish the residence for Yolanda Arenas, 37, and her three children, Jessica Samamo, 17; Raymond Samamo, 16, and David Samamo, 10.

Movers spent much of Thursday preparing the house for the six-mile move to its permanent location on East Second Street. At 12:01 a.m. Friday, they left the fairgrounds for a journey that went down Ramona Expressway to Perris Boulevard and then to Second Street. Spotters walked alongside the house on wheels as it traversed the route, sometimes directing the driver to steer around traffic signals and tree branches.

But the move went off without a hitch. Less than two hours after leaving the fairgrounds, the home settled into its permanent location just north of the Perris Theatre.

Tammy Marine, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of the Inland Valley, came out to watch the move.

She called it "the pinnacle of this project." The home is the second Habitat for Humanity project in Perris and Marine thanked the City for its cooperation in making it possible.

"This is the result of all of our efforts," she said. "It's very heartwarming. The City of Perris has a great staff, great leadership and a great City Council. They were a joy to work with."

Marine called Habitat for Humanity a "hand up, not a hand out."

Families fortunate enough to qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home must pay a mortgage and complete budgeting and money-management classes. In addition, each recipient must complete 350 hours of "sweat equity" on their home or another Habitat residence. Marine said the Arenas family completed the sweat equity labor with the help of eight cousins, uncles, nieces and nephews working at one time.

Arenas said she is overwhelmed at the opportunity to own a home and become part of the Perris community.

"We want the stability and security of owning something that is ours," she said. "It's a dream come true. It is hard to put into words the appreciation we have in our hearts."

Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough also watched the home move.

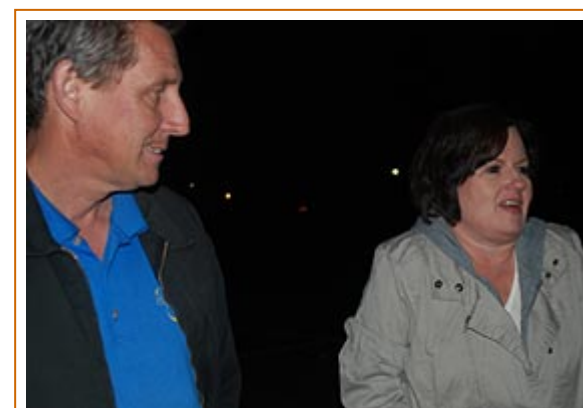
"This is very cool," he said. "It's one thing to work on a house but it's another to see it being moved to its final location. We have literally followed this from the moment it was born at the fairgrounds to its move to Downtown Perris. Habitat for Humanity provides a unique way of filling a need for families in a community. This is an extra special day."



A Habitat for Humanity home for a Perris family moves down Perris Boulevard in the early morning hours of Oct. 28.



The home is unhitched as it moves into its permanent location on East Second Street in Downtown Perris.



Perris City Councilman Mark Yarbrough and Tammy Marine, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Inland Valley, watch as the home is moved into place.



A worker in an illuminated vest guides the moving truck down Perris Boulevard on its way to Second Street.