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Article by: Margaret Penner

Vernon's Habitat for Humanity has a Christmas dream. It is to move the Verhulst/Barker family into their new home for the Christmas season and they need your financial support to make this dream come true.

Volunteers have been working hard to finish the units in the "Under One Roof" complex at 4100 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Habitat for Humanity has collaborated with two other societies to build this affordable housing complex in Vernon. One of the units is designated as a Habitat for Humanity family home, two of the units will provide housing for individuals with special needs from the Kindale Developmental Association and the other three units will be rented to families by the Vernon & District Land Trust.

This is the first time in Canada that Habitat for Humanity has collaborated with other societies to build affordable housing. With the high cost of land in the Okanagan, this makes practical and economical sense.

There is much need in Vernon for Habitat's "Hand's Up" home building projects which bring volunteers and community partners together to build a safer, healthier environment for families. Families like the Verhulst/Barker's.

The Verhulst/Barker's are taking an active role in the building of their home by contributing 500 hours of sweat equity. Habitat then provides them with an interest free mortgage with monthly payments based on 1/3 of their family income.

The "Under One Roof" project has been a collaborated effort with monetary and in-kind donations from the community as well as many hours of volunteer labour, all majorly contributing to make it happen. All three organizations are funneling donations into "Under One Roof" in order to get the project completed. Donations for this worthwhile project are gratefully accepted and tax deductible.

With the continued support of our community we hope to have many more families move from sub-standard accommodations into safe, decent housing in the near future.

Kyle Verhulst, Terri-Lee Barker and their three lovely children pray they will be able to spend this special Christmas in their new home. Please help us make this a possibility by mailing your tax deductible donations to:

Under One Roof @ PO Box 94 Armstrong BC V0E 1B0

Habitat for Humanity Vernon Chapter @ Box 1703 Stn Main Vernon BC V1 8C3 (250-558-0072)

More information is available through the Social Planning Council of the North Okanagan at 250-545-8572.



3 year old Shealyn is ready to help.



Terri-Lee & Kyle Verhulst with their family: Shealyn (front), Ella (left) and baby Kyler



Kyle with Ella