

## Habitat for Humanity and Bolinas Community Land Trust Welcome Two Local Families into New Affordable Homes in the Heart of Bolinas

*Celebration marks a new beginning for West Marin families and the expansion of much-needed affordable homeownership in the region*



*One of the two local families gathered in front of their new homes on Aspen Road in Bolinas, Calif.*

**SAN FRANCISCO, Calif, (September 17, 2024)** - Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco (Habitat Greater San Francisco) and the Bolinas Community Land Trust (BCLT) hosted a special gathering on September 14 to welcome two local families and their young children into their new homes on Aspen Road in Bolinas. The families were joined by more than 40 guests, including friends, community members, well-wishers and their soon-to-be neighbors as they celebrated the beginning of a new, bright chapter as homeowners in the town they know and love.

The event honored the countless community members that helped make the homes a reality. From the dedicated volunteers, construction crews and hours of ‘sweat equity’ from each family to the unique partnership between the two local nonprofits, it was truly a community effort. Habitat Greater San Francisco is the only affiliate in the state currently partnering with a community land trust. It is one of the many ways the organization is seeking out innovative approaches to bringing more affordable homeownership to Marin County.

The two homeowner families and their school-aged children have deep roots in the community and have long dreamed of owning their own homes. “To be standing here now is just incredible. My daughter slept in her own room last night in the house that we own. The



economics of living in the Bay Area over the last 20 years meant we never thought we would be able to build our own home right here in a place that we love. Because there are organizations and community members like the ones here today that are absolutely committed to supporting families and affordable housing options, we finally get to call a place home,” said Michael, new Habitat homeowner.

The small coastal town of Bolinas is well known for its stunning landscape, tight-knit community and distinct local character. Over the years though, the town’s limited housing stock and increasing number of short-term Airbnb rentals and vacation homes has resulted in sharply rising housing costs. In Bolinas, housing expenses [exceed the national average by 181%](#) with the [average home price now hovering at \\$1.75M](#). This shift has created a challenging situation for local residents who can no longer afford to live in their existing school districts or stay within a reasonable distance of their jobs.

For both families, finding out they were going to be homeowners could not have come at a better time. One family had just been displaced from their long-term rental housing in Bolinas when they found out they were eligible. Their new Habitat home means their daughter does not have to change schools and can stay with the friends she knows so well. The other Marin County family had been a frequent visitor to Bolinas where they have built lasting relationships in the community, but owning a home in the town had always seemed a far-off dream.

“I am thrilled to welcome these incredible families into their new homes. Every day we see the positive impact affordable homeownership makes in the lives of Habitat families, from greater stability and peace of mind to improved health and education outcomes. Everyone deserves to have a sense of place, a sense of safety and a sense of community” said Maureen Sedonaen, Chief Executive Officer at Habitat Greater San Francisco.



*Homeowners and Habitat CEO Maureen Sedonaen and BCLT Executive Director Anne O’Connor celebrating at the Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco home dedication event*

“These are local families who care deeply about the Bolinas community and its natural landscape. From running an environmental nonprofit focused on coastal ecosystem restoration to working at the Point Reyes National Seashore, these are working families that for decades have been priced out of market rate homeownership. The Habitat model helps level the



playing field so these families can stay in the community they love, raise their children here and build equity that has a lasting impact for generations.”

The new homes are in addition to two affordable homes Habitat Greater San Francisco and BCLT completed along Overlook Drive last year. The organizations are in the early planning stages of building eight additional affordable homes along Wharf Drive in downtown Bolinas.

#### **About the Homes**

- 2 detached prefabricated single-family homes
- 3-bedroom, 2-bath units
- All-electric, energy-efficient appliances
- Roof-top solar panels

#### **About Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco**

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco (Habitat Greater San Francisco) builds homes and community in partnership with thousands of annual volunteers, hard-working families, donors, civic leaders and other engaged community members in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties. The work supporters help us do provides a critical path to financial security for families who live and work here and strengthens neighborhoods across the Bay Area. Habitat Greater San Francisco has built more than 270 affordable homes in the Bay Area. More information can be found at [www.habitatgsf.org](http://www.habitatgsf.org).

#### **Media Contact:**

Name: Jennifer Hayes

Phone: 510-325-5622

Email: [jhayes@habitatgsf.org](mailto:jhayes@habitatgsf.org)