

Sandia to kick off Livermore Habitat for Humanity project

On Saturday, Nov. 9, a team of volunteers from Sandia/California will kick off Habitat for Humanity's first urban infill project in Livermore. Over the course of the project, which is expected to take about three months, volunteers will partially demolish and rebuild a dilapidated 60-year-old house on Andrews Street. A low-income Livermore family will then buy the house through Habitat for Humanity's homebuying program, with a preference given to veterans.

Habitat for Humanity's infill projects target homes in blighted neighborhoods, typically foreclosures. "It's less expensive and faster to rebuild an existing home, plus there is an abundance of these properties," explains Daryl Lee, corporate development officer for Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley."

Larry Carrillo (8247), a longtime Habitat volunteer, provided the impetus for the Livermore infill project, bringing together the City of Livermore and Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley. With retired Sandian Chuck Oien, Larry led Sandia teams that participated in the 2009 and 2010 Earth Day Build-A-Thon in Oakland.

"I wanted a project in Livermore where Sandians can volunteer and help the local community," he says. "I consider myself very fortunate, and volunteering with Habitat is a way to give back."

The Andrews Street house is the first project in what will likely be an ongoing partnership between the City of Livermore and Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley. The City identifies properties, which Habitat then purchases, rebuilds, and eventually sells to a low-income family. Lee says up to three more houses could be rebuilt in Livermore next year.

Through the Lockheed Martin Gifts and Grants program, Sandia has sponsored two workdays that will be staffed entirely by members of the workforce and their families and friends. The first workday is the Nov. 9 project kickoff; the second date is still to be determined. Other organizations and companies, including Asbury United Methodist Church, Home Depot, and Dow Chemical, have sponsored other workdays.

There are a few more volunteer slots open for the Nov. 9 kickoff. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and need to be available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sandia will provide volunteers for another yet-to-be-determined workday.

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