



## Homes for the Holidays

*Interreligious Council to mark 45<sup>th</sup> year of service by sharing in Habitat for Humanity build in Lynwood*

### **Presentation of \$5,000 gift set for December 9**

[ Los Angeles ] With a Dec. 9 work day – and a \$5,000 gift to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (Habitat LA) – the Interreligious Council of Southern California will mark its 45<sup>th</sup> year of service in the region.

Media and community representatives are invited to gather December 9 at 11:30am at the Habitat LA build site, 3303 Magnolia Avenue, Lynwood 90262.

“Many people think Habitat for Humanity provides housing for the homeless,” said Randolph Dobbs, Council president and representative of the Los Baha’i Center. “The truth is affordable housing is out of reach for the working poor and that’s why Habitat is such a good fit for the charitable efforts of the Interreligious Council. It’s something to which everyone can relate.”

“We launched an Interfaith Initiative over the last two years to bring together Los Angeles’s rich faith and spiritual traditions around Habitat’s mission of building a world where everyone has a decent place to live,” said Chris Untiet, faith relations manager for Habitat LA. “We are thrilled to be serving with the IRC as we complete our first Interfaith House.”

The Interfaith House is one of seven residences being built on the Lynwood site. Each Habitat LA house sponsorship costs \$150,000, Habitat LA officials say. More information is available online at [www.habitatla.org](http://www.habitatla.org).

The build day also will involve members of the “Future50,” a cohort of rising interfaith representatives, ages 24-36, co-sponsored by the Council and the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture. The cohort members are invited to work strategically with the Council moving toward the Council’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2019.

“The energy of the Future50 is moving the Council in new directions,” said Robert Williams, a Council vice president and representative of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, who co-chairs the Future50 initiative with Judy Gilliland, a Council past-president and representative of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. “Interfaith collaboration looks much different today than it did 45 years ago, and we are all about inviting in refreshing new approaches.”

### **About the Interreligious Council**

Founded in 1969, the Interreligious Council of Southern California has made common cause of cooperative and constructive interfaith activity. According to a recent USC study, Los Angeles is the most religiously diverse city in the world. At a time when much of the rest of the world is splintering into sectarian division and conflict, Southern California has witnessed a surge in interfaith understanding. More is online at [www.irc-socal.org](http://www.irc-socal.org).

Interreligious Council member organizations include:

**Armenian Apostolic Church – Western Diocese**

**Baha’i Communities of the Greater Los Angeles Area**

**Board of Rabbis of Southern California**

**Buddhist Sangha Council of Southern California**

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**

**Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles**

**International Society for Krishna Consciousness**

**Islamic Center of Southern California**

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

**Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

**Sikh Dharma of Southern California**

**Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

**Southern California Ecumenical Council**

**Vedanta Society of Southern California**

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**About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles**

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles (Habitat LA) strives to eliminate substandard housing through advocacy, education and partnership with families and individuals in need to build decent, sustainable and affordable housing. Since 1990, Habitat LA has built and repaired more than 1,000 homes locally and worldwide, transforming the lives of hundreds of individuals. Habitat LA is a GuideStar® Valued Partner and has achieved the coveted Charity Navigator 4-Star rating awarded to non-profits for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. For more information, please visit <http://www.habitatla.org> or call 310-323-4663.