

# NEWHOMEGUIDE

## IN THE NEWS

### *Deserving Mississauga family to own a home* THANKS TO A CANADIAN FIRST IN HABITAT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

A Mississauga family of six was recently joined by volunteers who worked on the townhome that will soon be theirs, thanks to a unique program being launched at Daniels FirstHome Destination Drive II in Erin Mills.

The Daniels Corp. and Citi Foundation are partnering with Habitat for Humanity Mississauga in a new concept to help deserving families realize their dream of home ownership. A first in Canada, Habitat is acquiring a partially completed townhome within the Daniels community at significantly reduced costs, and then finishing the interior.

A shift from Habitat's usual ground-up builds, this unique approach was made possible with substantial support from both Daniels and Citi Foundation. As land availability in major urban centers dwindles, and it becomes more difficult to acquire building lots, Habitat hopes this timely model will serve as an example to other developers and private sector organizations.

"Daniels is delighted to be part of this innovative initiative," says Daniels vice-president Don Pugh. "Through our FirstHome Communities, we have an ongoing commitment to help make the dream of home ownership a reality for as many people as possible. Through this symbiotic relationship between Daniels, Citi and Habitat, we are demonstrating that affordable housing can be achieved. We are particularly happy to be able to give back in Mississauga, where our chairman, John Daniels, was one of the visionaries behind the creation of Erin Mills. Our corporate roots are here, and we have a long history of building in this city."

"To serve our families' need for affordable homes, we have to come up with alternate approaches," adds Doug Clark, board chair and president, Habitat for Humanity Mississauga. "A few years ago, Daniels donated the land for 10 Habitat townhomes in Etobicoke – the single-largest donation of land by a private company in Habitat Canada's history.

Subsequently, Daniels' President Mitchell Cohen offered us the opportunity of partnering with them at their FirstHome Communities. Recognizing the importance of this opportunity, Citi Foundation and their employees also came forward to help with funding and to assist on the build. This generous level of involvement from both Daniels and Citi is a positive example of two organizations that are committed to strengthening their communities working with Habitat to help build homes and hope for deserving families."

More than 2,000 volunteer hours are going into the completion of the Destination Drive II townhome, as well as the selected partner family contributing 500 hours of "sweat equity" by assisting with the completion of the home. The



Don Pugh (front row, third from left), vice-president of The Daniels Corp., joins the partner family at FirstHome Destination Drive II in Erin Mills, where work continues on Habitat for Humanity's newest home.



Shaukat, father of partner family, helps install kitchen cabinets in what will soon be his family's new home.

couple came to Canada from Pakistan years ago to make a better life for themselves and their four sons, who are between the ages of nine and 15. The family currently lives in a crowded two-bedroom rental apartment, so owning a three-bedroom townhome will be a big step toward realizing the Canadian dream for this family.

The townhome will be turned over to the family next spring. Habitat sells the homes to partner families with no down payment, and takes back an interest-free mortgage for the full purchase price.