

Habitat chapter dedicates 70th home

Woman says home restored hope after soldier's death

Spring Hill – A single mother and her two sons received this week the 70th home built by volunteers through Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County.

The Habitat chapter dedicated the home this past Sunday. The new homeowners are Brooke Willis and her two sons, Christopher, 9, and Tristan, 5.

Tristan's father, Specialist Ryan Travis Baker from the 101st Airborne Division, was killed Nov. 15, 2003. He was in one of two Black Hawk helicopters that went down in Mosul, Iraq, killing 17 soldiers from the 101st. The Army posthumously awarded Baker a Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

"When Tristan's dad was killed in Iraq, hope was shattered for us," Brooke Willis said. "This home, where the boys have a place to play and bring their friends, is a new beginning and new hope for us."

The money and volunteers to build the new home were furnished by Habitat and by Spring Hill Presbyterian, Epworth United Methodist and East Brentwood Presbyterian churches.

The new home is at 608 McLemore Ave. in Spring Hill.

Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County is a non-profit 503(c)(3) agency chartered in 1992 by the state of Tennessee and a full affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. The purpose of the affiliate is to provide adequate, affordable, energy-efficient houses for low- and very low-income families. The affiliate sells simple houses to qualifying families at no profit on 20-year mortgages at 0 percent interest.

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