

Greater Toronto REALTORS offer key to a better life

BY RICHARD SILVER

As current President of The Toronto Real Estate Board, it was an honour to present, on behalf of all Greater Toronto Realtors, a family with the key to their new home at a Habitat for Humanity Toronto dedication ceremony held April 24.

Despite inclement weather, I was touched to see close to 100 people including sponsors, local politicians and sponsor families at the ceremony, which took place at the development site located at 4572 Kingston Road near Morningside Avenue.

Not only did Realtors financially help sponsor the home through the REALTORS Care Foundation, TREB Realtor Members took part in the project's construction in November and December of last year. Thanks to their efforts, the Matin family are now the proud owners of one of the 29 town home units built as part of the development.

I was so very proud to see what team work did to help bring the Matin family's dream of homeownership to fruition, and I shared this with Habitat for Humanity Toronto Chief Executive Officer Neil Hetherington, who was also on hand at the dedication ceremony to thank the development's sponsors and congratulate the sponsor families.

In exchange, the Families contribute 500 volunteer hours to Habitat for Humanity Toronto and repay a zero-down payment, interest free mortgage over an average of 25 years.

Habitat for Humanity Toronto has constructed more than 225 affordable homes with partner families throughout the city and has set a goal to build 50 new homes each year by 2015.



Richard Silver, president of the Toronto Real Estate Board, welcomes the Matin family to their new home.

While the home marked TREB's fourth Habitat for Humanity title sponsorship, Greater Toronto Realtors have since sponsored a fifth Habitat for Humanity home located in the Danforth Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue area.

I share with you a quote by Eleanor Roosevelt that captures the true meaning behind these build projects:

"Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give."

I encourage everyone to ask if there is anything you can do to bring others joy and happiness, and then go out and do it! Even if you can only help affect the life of one, it will be worth it!



Richard Silver is president of the Toronto Real Estate Board, a professional association that represents 34,000 Realtors in the Greater Toronto Area. www.torontorealestateboard.com