

# 30 faith groups join in Habitat project in Antioch

## Unity Build starts today

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20120908/NEWS06/309080031/30-faith-groups-join-Habitat-project-Antioch>

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville begins its 2012 Fall Build today with a tremendous show of faith, good will and unity as more than 30 area faith groups come together to build five of the nine homes slated for [construction](#) this month in Antioch.

Some of the houses are being funded in part by the Tennessee Housing Development Agency [Trust Fund](#) grant.

Construction starts today in Antioch's Edison Park neighborhood on five [homes](#), one of which is being done by the Unity Build — which brings together more than 20 area faith groups.

As a display of interfaith unity, several clerics joined in a Shabbat service Friday at The Temple Congregation Ohabai Sholom on Harding Road. Sri Koteshwara Gurrukal, Hindu temple priest, performed the Sanskrit invocation prayer; [Rabbi Mark Schiffan, senior rabbi](#), led the Shabbat service; the Rev. Chris Adams, senior minister at Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Ann Cover, senior minister at South End United Methodist Church, led meditations; [Imam Mohamed Ahmed, Islamic Center of Nashville](#), [led the prayer for peace](#); and the Rev. Ken Edmondson, senior minister at Woodbine United Methodist Church, led the benediction.

Today's project is the Unity Build's 20th [house](#), this one for Habitat partner family Ibrar and Shahnaz Khan. Ibrar came to the United States in 2009 from Pakistan, and once he became established, he sent for his wife and two children. The Khans are looking forward to having a place for their children to play.

“The Islamic Center of Tennessee is pleased to join hands with people of other faiths in the Habitat Unity Build project. We see this as a unique opportunity to build bridges of understanding and establish partnerships for the purpose of serving others,” said Kamel Daouk, a spokesman for ICT.

**Second phase slated to begin next weekend**

The Unity Build will begin construction Sept 15 on four more houses in Edison Park.

Westminster Presbyterian Church will begin its 19th Habitat home, for partner family Osman Warsame and Madio Hirsi. Originally from Somalia, the family of nine currently shares a three-bedroom apartment.

First Presbyterian Church, which is building its 10th Habitat home, is sponsoring Erica Greene and her four children. Greene is employed by First Presbyterian and sought a Habitat home because she is concerned about crime in her neighborhood and hopes for a safer place in which to nurture her children.

The Catholic Faith Build is sponsoring Bisrat Hailemariam and Zewdinesh Geremew, an Ethiopian couple with three children, who won a lottery that selects people to receive green cards.