

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Freres Lumber Joins Local Forest Products Companies to Build Home for Oregon Family**

**LYONS, ORE. 19 AUG. 2016**—The [American Forest Resource Council \(AFRC\)](#), a non-profit trade association based out of Portland, invited [Freres Lumber Company](#) and others in the local forest products industry to join forces in building a Habitat for Humanity home for the Navarrete Bravo family in Springfield, Oregon. AFRC represents lumber manufacturers and forest landowners in five western states, with a major presence in Lane County and the Eugene/Springfield area. Freres Lumber donated the plywood needed in this project for wall and floor construction. A groundbreaking ceremony of the family's home was held June 25. With the combined contributions of Freres Lumber's plywood, and other AFRC members' locally manufactured lumber, volunteer hours, and cash donations, the home represents the values of the local forest products industry.

"My grandfather, T.G. Freres, founded Freres Lumber Company with the inherent values of giving back to our communities. We find nothing more rewarding than to make a positive impact in people's lives," says Rob Freres, Executive Vice President of Freres Lumber. "When the American Forest Resource Council invited us to contribute, we gladly agreed, as we believe in the mission of Habitat for Humanity and we were moved by the Navarrete Bravo family's story."

"This project embodies what the forest products industry is all about," said Travis Joseph, president of AFRC, who was born and raised in Springfield. "We work in the woods, care for our public lands, and make products every Oregonian depends on every day-, including the wood products in our homes. Our members care deeply about the communities in which they live, work, and play and this project is a reminder of that commitment. We are honored and thrilled to be using our industry's local products and expertise to build a home for Nayeli and her daughter Alitza—they could not be more deserving."

Nayeli has completed 176 hours in volunteer sweat equity including construction of other Habitat homes, homeowner education, and other volunteer opportunities. This represents more than ½ of the total hours required by the Habitat program—and they are just beginning to build their own home! When their home is completed, the Navarrete Bravo family will have contributed at least 300 hours in sweat equity. Truly, this family is making an investment in their future.

### **About Freres Lumber Company**

Freres Lumber was established in 1922 by T.G Freres on the North Fork of Oregon's Santiam River. Over the last ninety years, and three generations of family management, the company has evolved from a small sawmill to one of Oregon's premier wood products manufacturing companies. The company now operates five plants, including a small log plant, large log plant, veneer drying facility, plywood plant and cogeneration facility. Freres is committed to maintaining modern manufacturing facilities, providing high-quality wood products, and providing family wage jobs to the local area. For more information, visit [www.frereslumber.com](http://www.frereslumber.com) or call [503-859-2121](tel:503-859-2121).

### **About the American Forest Resource Council**

AFRC is a regional trade association whose purpose is to advocate for sustained yield timber harvests on public timberlands throughout the West to enhance forest health and resistance to fire, insects, and disease. AFRC does this by promoting active management to attain productive public forests, protect adjoining private forests, and assure community stability. It works to improve federal and state laws, regulations, policies and decisions regarding access to and management of public forest lands and protection of all forest lands. The ultimate goal of AFRC's programs and initiatives is to advance its members' ability to practice socially and scientifically responsible forestry on both public and private forest lands.

### **About Springfield/Eugene Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat is an ecumenical Christian ministry dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. The Springfield/Eugene Habitat for Humanity affiliate is one of 2100 affiliates worldwide that have built over 800,000 houses serving over four million people in need of safe, decent, affordable housing. Springfield/Eugene Habitat's ReStore accepts donated new and used building materials, furniture and home improvement items for resale to the public with proceeds supporting Habitat's work to increase affordable housing in the community. Call Habitat at [541-741-1707](tel:541-741-1707) for more information and to learn how you can help.