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FIRST STORY AND ACCESS OF JACKSON COUNTY SURPRISE FAMILY WITH A FIRST STORY HOME!

The first-time homebuyers will receive a zero-down, zero-interest 30-year home loan for a brand new Hayden Home in the Delta Estates community

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Medford, Ore., March 21, 2023—Today, one special family got the surprise news that they will be the next recipient of a [First Story](#) home in Medford!

At an in-person Welcome Home event, which occurred at 11 a.m. today at the [ACCESS](#) office in Medford, the Ayala family was told that their participation in ACCESS' homeowner education program helped pave the way for their selection as the next family to own an affordable home through First Story's unique home loan program.

“We couldn't do this work without valuable housing partners like ACCESS,” said Claire Duncan, executive director at First Story. “Our Welcome Home Events are an incredible opportunity for us to bring together the many supporters that make our affordable home loans possible, while celebrating a huge milestone in a family's homeownership journey.”

At the Welcome Home Event, members of the community and staff from ACCESS and First Story congratulated the new homebuyers on being approved for a First Story home. The family will now receive information about the next steps in their homebuying journey, including a wall-raising event that will take place at the building site of their new home in June. The family will receive the keys to their new Delta Estates home during a home dedication ceremony in September.

First Story is a nonprofit that provides affordable homeownership opportunities to under-resourced families in the Northwest. First Story offers an innovative loan program that gives qualified individuals and families earning 80 percent of area median income or below a home loan at zero-down, zero-percent interest for 30 years. The organization partners with community-based organizations like ACCESS to identify qualified, aspiring homebuyers and help them go from renting to owning.

“Today is an exciting day!” said Joe Vollmar, the housing director at ACCESS. “With the housing market being challenging for low to moderate income households finding a home they can afford, this partnership with First Story is an exciting opportunity for a household to not only purchase an affordable home but to purchase a brand new home!”

First Story’s affordable home loan program is made possible through a partnership with its founder, Hayden Homes, plus in-kind donations of labor and building materials and the financial support of a robust network of donors.

“By giving individuals a hand up to homeownership we put them on a path toward asset-building, financial stability and economic mobility,” said Duncan. “We are committed to breaking the cycle of generational poverty through affordable homeownership.”

To date, First Story has helped 109 families become homeowners. Of those families,

- 100% earn less than 80% of area median income
- 100% are first-time homebuyers
- 80% are the first in their families to ever own a home
- 30% identify as minorities
- 20% are households with children who have disabilities

To learn more visit www.firststory.org, and we invite you to follow the Ayala family’s journey to becoming homeowners on First Story’s [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

About First Story

Now celebrating its 25th year, First Story is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit on a mission to address the affordable housing crisis in the Northwest. First Story uses an integrated approach to affordable housing by giving individuals a hand up to homeownership while encouraging inclusivity.

First Story collaborates with builder Hayden Homes and in-kind partners to construct or fully refurbish homes in existing Hayden Homes communities. The homes are then sold to individuals and families earning 80 percent of area median income or below through First Story’s innovative loan program, which provides loans at zero-down, zero-percent interest for 30 years.

The organization also supports community nonprofits through a giving grant program in partnership with Hayden Homes. First Story has granted more than \$2.2 million to more than 1,000 charities providing shelter, food and advocacy services in communities served. The

organization is based in Bend, Ore., and serves Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

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