

**Contact:** Faith Mellinger

**Phone:** (626) 709.3274

**Email:** fmellinger@sgvhabitat.org

724 East Huntington Drive

Monrovia, CA 91016

[sgvhabitat.org](http://sgvhabitat.org)



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# PRESS RELEASE

## San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity and the City of Baldwin Park Partner for Solutions to Combat the Growing Housing Crisis

**(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE) February 17, 2022: Monrovia, CA-** The City of Baldwin Park has committed \$3.6 million to fund the construction of new homes, rehabilitation of existing homes, and critical home repairs to low-income residents in partnership with San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity (SGV Habitat).

The funds will support SGV Habitat and its affiliate's projects in Baldwin Park for the next three years. This funding has the potential to possibly fund 30-40 affordable homeownership opportunities through new home construction, acquisition and rehabilitation of existing homes, and over 3 dozen critical home repairs for low-income individuals and families.

"Housing stability is vital to the independence of our families," says Baldwin Park Mayor Emmanuel Estrada. "We are committed to keeping families in their hometown and making sure the next generations have the same opportunity. A lack of affordable housing hurts our ability to remain healthy and together. I am proud of the work we are doing in partnership with San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity. These programs will help Baldwin Park families have access to stable, healthy homes, and create generational wealth."

In the US, homeowners have a 400% higher net wealth than renters with similar demographics and earnings. Yet, nearly half of all households in California are excluded from homeownership opportunities. By investing in affordable ownership production, lower-income Californians, can access permanently affordable, equity-building homes.

Later this year SGV Habitat will begin construction of a 12-home project on Torch Street – the largest SGV Habitat project in Baldwin Park to date. These houses are part of SGV Habitat's "[Expanding the American Dream](#)" campaign, which seeks to transform the lives of 100 families by providing homes and/or home repair services by 2023.

"Our goal is to dramatically increase the number of affordable homeownership opportunities in the San Gabriel Valley" says Bryan Wong, Executive Director at SGV Habitat for Humanity. "The need for affordable housing in the area is overwhelming. With Habitat's 'hand up, not a handout' program model we are breaking down the barriers that previously kept many local residents from qualifying for a home purchase."

Currently market rate California homes cost nearly seven times the average household income. The price of homes in the San Gabriel Valley continues to escalate which causes most lower-income families and first-time homebuyers to be priced out of the market. The need for affordable housing is immense, and the lasting impact it can have on families is undeniable. Partnerships like this one between the City

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of Baldwin Park and SGV Habitat provide a solution to increase access to safe and affordable homes. To learn more about SGV Habitat and the work they are doing in Baldwin Park and other San Gabriel Valley cities visit [www.sgvhabitat.org](http://www.sgvhabitat.org)

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### **About San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity**

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, a small group of committed volunteers founded San Gabriel Valley Habitat for Humanity in 1990. Fueled by the generosity of volunteers and donors, we've served almost 300 families in our local community and abroad. Families and individuals' partner with Habitat to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners receive a hand up, not a handout, as they help build their own homes alongside volunteers. All Habitat homebuyers pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. To learn more, visit [sgvHabitat.org](http://sgvHabitat.org).