

S.F. Chinese Family Receives New Home Thanks to Habitat for Humanity

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SAN FRANCISCO -Tai Hong Hoang and Li Fen, their three children and his brother, Alex, used to live in a small studio apartment in the Tenderloin neighborhood of San Francisco.

The living conditions were substandard and unsafe: While Alex slept on a small bed in the closet, the children slept with their parents on the studio bed - where the family also ate its meals on most days. Drug activity in the streets

below prevented the children from going outside to play.

On October 25, their family was given the opportunity to start a new life in a new house as one of 16 Habitat families on De Long Street in San Francisco and Daly City. This family was one of the final three in the De Long Street development to receive the keys to their new home.

“The area where we [currently] live is crowded and the environment is not good for growing children,” said Hoang. “Our future home will be a haven of hope and love for our growing family.”

“This dedication reminds us all of the daily challenges that working families face living here in San Francisco and on the Peninsula, and the substantial impact that adequate housing can have in their lives,” said Phillip Kilbridge, executive director of Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco. “Having the opportunity to purchase a Habitat home becomes a life-altering event for the family, providing security, stability and a more promising future for generations to come.”

Habitat for Humanity Greater San Francisco’s homeownership program allows families working in service, manufacturing, retail and other sectors to live near their jobs in safe, decent and affordable homes.

Tai Hong and Li Fen, as well as the other Habitat partner families, have contributed 500 “sweat equity” hours to help build their own homes. Habitat houses are sold to them at no profit and financed with affordable, zero-interest mortgages structured never to exceed one-third of their monthly income.