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Once Refugees, Kent County Family Celebrates New Home

GRAND RAPIDS – The journey from war-torn Somalia to Cedar Springs, Michigan has been a long one, but for husband and wife Max Ceymoy and Maryan Jibriil and their six children, it has been full of unexpected blessings. Today, they will celebrate moving into their new home, which was built in part with grants that the Kent County Community Development Department provided to the Inner-City Christian Federation (ICCF).

Max and Maryan and their children came to Cedar Springs five years ago. With ICCF's assistance they applied for the program last year and were excited to learn they were eligible for grants through HOME – the Home Investment Partnership Program. Kent County's Community Development Department funds local non-profits so they can build homes for low-to-moderate income families. "Owning a home is part of the American Dream, and Kent County staff works to make the dreams of homeownership come true for many families," said Daryl Delabbio, Kent County Administrator/Controller. "It's amazing when we see the dream become a reality."

The family received a few grants towards down-payment, but gladly put in some "sweat equity" and a mortgage of their own to build the three bedroom single family home in Cedar Springs. "Our team at ICCF considers it a great privilege to have walked alongside of Max and Maryan through their process of becoming first time home-owners", said Ryan VerWys, CEO of ICCF. "It was such a blessing to see the local community, partner organizations and agencies working together to help make this house a place for the family to come home to. "

MEDIA NOTE: You are invited to the House Blessing Friday, March 4 at 3:30 p.m. at the home located at 217 Cedar in Cedar Springs. Questions regarding this event may be directed to Sandra Gaddy, Vice President of Advancement with ICCF at 616-528-2988.

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