

Sundre, Olds needy families to get houses

By **LAURA TESTER**
Advocate staff

Canada's 61st Habitat for Humanity group will build homes for needy families in Sundre and Olds.

Laurie Miller, a volunteer with the newly-formed Habitat for Humanity Mountain View, said once lots come available and there's enough money in place, the hammering can begin.

She said the need for the nonprofit organization to build homes is great in the county where there's been an increased use of Neighbourhood Place referral centres and food banks.

Needy families can get a break through Habitat for Humanity, which gives them no interest mortgage payments for 20 years. They don't have to make a down payment on the home, either.

As part of the agreement with Habitat for Humanity, the family must donate 500 hours of sweat equity on their home or volunteer in some other way.

The group is first building in Cremona, west of Carstairs, after the local United Church donated a lot there. In addition to Olds and Sundre, the group will also focus on Didsbury and Carstairs.

"We're hoping to have a lot in place in one of the other communities so we can start planning for next year," Miller said.

People will have until March 31 to apply to live in a new home in Cremona. The family will be chosen as of May 1 and construction may begin in early July.

The family could move in early November. In the meantime, Habitat for Humanity Mountain View will continue to look for volunteers and raise money. It's raffling off a playhouse resembling a miniature train station. It was built by inmates at Bowden Institution.

Tickets are \$2 a piece. The draw will be held on the Labour Day weekend, unless the 1,500 tickets sell out before.

Applications for a Habitat for Humanity house are available at town offices and at the Olds and Sundre Neighbourhood Places.

For more information on applications, volunteering or donating building materials, call Miller at (403) 507-7994.