

I_R Farm & City

"Just walking up here, I can feel the joy of family and that's what this is all about."

Ryan Vincent
Acting director of the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation



LINDA MOWERY-DENNING/Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter
Aaron and Elizabeth Munoz and their children, Jesse, 20 months; Lacy, 8; Ameila, 12; and Arian, 4, are shown in front of their new home at Kanopolis.

First Time Homebuyer Program paves way for family move

BY LINDA MOWERY-DENNING
Ellsworth County I-R

KANOPOLIS — When state officials went in search of a young family as representative of the state's first-time homebuyers, their journey ended at Kanopolis.

Against the backdrop of their new ranch-style home, Aaron and Elizabeth Munoz and their four children Friday accepted congratulations and gifts from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation and other well wishers.

The Munozes purchased their home about a year ago after qualifying for the agency's First Time Homebuyer Program.

"The state truly is here to help our communities and our families," said acting director Ryan Vincent.

He was accompanied by Christine Reimler, program director; Cynthia Howerton, home ownership specialist; and Emily Sharp, communications director.

Also in attendance were Kristin Haase of First Bank Kansas, who handled the home loan; Kanopolis mayor Anthony Hopkins; Stacie Schmidt of Ellsworth County's Smoky Hill Development Corporation; and Tami McGreevey of the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce.

Hopkins thanked everyone who made Friday happen.

"Hopefully, Kanopolis will continue to grow for many years to come," he said.

Aaron Munoz works for Klaus Masonry of Hays. Elizabeth Munoz works at the Ellsworth Steak House.

Aaron's grandparents lived in Kanopolis until his grandfather passed away and the family sold the farm. Aaron and Elizabeth lived in Ellsworth with their family; however, their goal was to move back to Kanopolis and their family roots.

"Inventory is limited in the area, so finding a home that was big enough for their family of six yet

still fit into their budget was a challenge," Sharp wrote in an e-mail to the I-R.

Haase directed the Munozes to the First Time Homebuyer Program, which offers assistance with down payment and closing costs.

Elizabeth Munoz said the family wasn't aware of the program before.

"Just walking up here, I can feel the joy of family and this is what this is all about," Vincent said.

Earlier this month, Gov. Laura Kelly proclaimed June National Homeownership Month in Kansas.

Sharp said shining a spotlight on the Munoz family and other first time homebuyers fits in with the governor's efforts at rural revitalization. Community benefits of homeownership, she said, include the stabilization of neighborhoods, economic growth and increased production and sales of goods and services.

IN BRIEF

ON THE FARM AND IN THE CITY

Grain prices drop for the week

Prices paid for grain at the Ellsworth Co-op at the end of the business day, Monday, June 10, were: Wheat, bu. — \$4.18, down 34 cents from June 3. Milo, bu. — \$3.41, down 8 cents. Soybeans, bu. — \$7.24, down 20 cents. Corn, bu. — \$3.86, down 8 cents. The co-op has locations in Ellsworth, Black Wolf, Farhman, Hirschmann, Holyrood and Kanopolis.

Family

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The Ellsworth houses will be built near the Good Samaritan Village, in the Carren Addition. Developers and the general contractor were to be in Ellsworth County this week to hammer out a time line for construction.

Pete Ramsel, a representative of the developer, Pointe Royale, said the project will offer opportunities to local contractors and vendors during construction and management and maintenance employees once the houses are built.

Ramsel, who lives in Missouri, was here in December to talk about the program with officials across Ellsworth County. At that time, the plan was to build 12 houses in Ellsworth, six at Wilson, four each in Kanopolis and Holyrood and one at Lorraine.

"These small developments come with very tight construction budgets ... Kanopolis and Ellsworth work well logistically," Deb Giffin, a representative of Pointe Royale, said in a news release.

"This being our first year in Ellsworth County, we need to get our feet wet — We will come back next year and apply for a Phase II in Ellsworth County."

Stacie Schmidt of the Smoky Hill Development Corporation said the new homes will solve an immediate need for affordable rentals in the area. The demand was identified by a third-party market study prior to the submission of the tax credit application, she said.



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CBD OIL MEETING

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June 14th - 6:30 p.m.
by Connie and Jim Kubick

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