



MEDIA RELEASE

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Brothers Return to Their Roots by Giving Back: Former Habitat Manitoba Children to Ride in 2025 Cycle of Hope

Winnipeg, MANITOBA - More than three decades after moving into a Habitat for Humanity Manitoba (Habitat Manitoba) home, brothers Jose and Carlos Castro are pedaling their way back to where it all began. The two will be riding in the 2025 [Cycle of Hope](#), a multi-day fundraising cycling event taking place August 5–8 in Kenora, Ontario, to help raise funds for future Habitat Manitoba homes -including the 55 home development in Transcona, a community not far from where they grew up.

In 1991, the Castro family, parents with five children, moved into their Habitat Manitoba-built home on Angus Street in Winnipeg's Point Douglas neighbourhood. It was a transformative moment for the family, who had recently arrived in Canada from El Salvador seeking safety and stability. The modest home provided more than just shelter - it offered hope, community and the opportunity to thrive.

"My parents worked tirelessly to build a better future for us. They made countless sacrifices, working long hours and doing everything they could to give us opportunities they never had. Owning a home always felt just out of reach," says Jose Castro. "Habitat Manitoba gave us that chance. They gave us more than just a roof over our heads—they gave us stability, dignity and a foundation to grow from. It gave us a home, and that changed everything. It changed the way we saw our future."

Jose remembers when he received his first bicycle from a generous community member. That moment sparked a lifelong love of cycling. Last year, for the first time Jose joined Habitat's Spirit of Hope cycling fundraiser, which raised just over \$126,000 with 40 fellow cyclists to support the building of a Habitat home. Inspired by that experience, Jose recruited his older brother Carlos to join him for this summer's Cycle of Hope - a four-day cycling adventure designed to challenge and inspire both novice and intermediate long-distance cyclists.

The 2025 Cycle of Hope will bring together 40 riders and 10 support volunteers to journey through the breathtaking scenery of Lake of the Woods, including stops in Minaki, Rushing River Provincial Park, and Redditt. Riders will cycle across the rugged Canadian Shield and along peaceful boreal lake shores.

"Cycling makes me happy and gives me a sense of peace," says Jose Castro, "Participating in Cycle of Hope is about giving back - it's about honouring the journey my family has taken and helping others find that same sense of home and belonging."

The brothers' story is a powerful example of Habitat's long-term impact. The Angus Street build in 1991 was a milestone - the organization's first multi-home development, which later laid the foundation for the 1993 Jimmy Carter Work Project in Winnipeg. The first of two Jimmy Carter Work Projects that took place in Winnipeg. The second was in 2017.

Jose credits growing up in a Habitat community with shaping his values and his belief in giving back. "Affordable housing doesn't just benefit one family," Jose Castro says. "It creates a ripple effect across entire communities. That's why Carlos and I are proud to ride. We're proof of what a Habitat home can do."

Habitat for Humanity Manitoba extends its sincere thanks to the City of Kenora and the Keewatin Patricia District School Board for their generous community support of this year's ride. Their hospitality reflects the true spirit of the Cycle of Hope - community helping community.

To learn more about the 2025 Cycle of Hope ride or to donate visit habitat.mb.ca.

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About Habitat for Humanity Manitoba

Founded in 1987, Habitat Manitoba is a not for profit housing organization that believes everyone deserves a safe and decent place to live. Habitat for Humanity has a decades-long legacy of improving access to quality affordable homes, locally and worldwide. Thanks to our generous corporate and individual donors, thousands of volunteers, and customers at our three Habitat ReStores, we continue to build homes, communities and hope in Manitoba. Habitat Manitoba have helped build homes for over 500 families and more than 1,400 children across the province and in Kenora, Ontario. Every safe, affordable home sparks wider change, leading to better health, education and well-being, more economic growth and less poverty. Peace of mind and the ability to focus on what matters most – it all starts with a home.

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