

Habitat plans home for unwed mothers

Shelter part of a three-house project

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GARFIELD – Habitat for Humanity has unveiled plans to build a home for unwed mothers on Farnham Avenue, city officials said.

Zoe's Place, a non-profit shelter for single mothers and their children, would be one of three homes in the neighborhood built by Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County.

The site is still in the preliminary stages, City Manager Tom Duch said, but the dwellings would include affordable housing apartments and a commercial unit.

Habitat, which is working with the Bergen County Department of Community Development and the United Way to pur-

chase the parcel of land at 58 Farnham Ave., unveiled the plan at a council work session last week.

The shelter would house four unwed mothers with one child each and a live-in counselor. The program would be similar to a shelter on MacDonald Street, Duch said.

Councilman Louis Aloia described the shelter as "an important, locally based program."

"We're taking care of our own here," Aloia said. "If we don't show we're a compassionate community and do our part to help out, then shame on us."

The organization must get approval from the zoning board before moving ahead with the project, he said.

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