

## The CDC Warehouse Makes Grand Opening of The American Bosnian Herzegovian Association a Success

Recently, the Community Development Corporation of Utah (CDC) had the opportunity to provide assistance to the American Bosnian Herzegovian Association (ABHA) by way of donations made through the CDC warehouse. Members of ABHA approached CDC with their request for building materials and the warehouse staff went to work to fulfill their needs. Past president of ABHA, Mladen Maric, said donations from the CDC warehouse included a stove, a microwave, some molding and tile, a sink and sink base, kitchen cabinets and hardware. These items were used to upgrade the facility and make it more inviting to those who wish to visit.



*We got down on our hands and knees and did the work ourselves.* The donated materials from the CDC warehouse were greatly appreciated especially because ABHA is a volunteer-based organization that depends on funds from members and donations from outside sources. *We are currently not open on a daily basis but that is the long-term goal. We are looking for people interested in working here on a volunteer basis, but until then we will have our doors open whenever possible to welcome visitors.*

Mladen Maric first came to Utah in 1973 and has worked very hard to establish a good life here away from the war-ravished area of his homeland. *I love it here; I feel like this is home, and I feel very welcome here.* Certainly one of the purposes of the ABHA is to provide a peaceful refuge where all who are interested can gather to share stories and get

to know other members of the community better. Additionally, folk dancing, arts and crafts and good food can be found on the list of things to enjoy when visiting.

The CDC warehouse is open to the public for the purchase of various home maintenance supplies including, but not limited to, paint, caulk, interior and exterior lights, blinds, doors and cabinet hardware. The doors are open from noon to 5 p.m. on the first Wednesday and 8 a.m. to noon on the first Saturday of each month. Virtually all of the inventory is donated. Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse has been a particularly valuable partner and has donated thousands of dollars worth of materials. Additionally, the inner city project run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has been able to utilize many of the goods from the warehouse to help those who might not have any other source for needed home repairs. Supplies from the warehouse are also used by contractors to renovate low income housing purchased by the CDC.

In addition to the materials supplied to the ABHA, Mladen acknowledged that the CDC has been very helpful in recent years by providing grants and financial assistance for home purchases to many of his fellow countryman. ***Many of the Bosnian refugees came here with nothing more than a suitcase and the clothes on their backs.*** The CDC reached out to help many of them become established in a newly renovated home.

Now that many of those who came here from Bosnia and other areas have been here awhile, the need for housing assistance has not been so great. However the need for meeting places such as the ABHA where people can meet together will always be there and, whenever possible CDC will be there along side for support.

***The supplies from the warehouse were a welcome resource that helped fill a need. Thanks again to the CDC and their staff.***