



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### KANSAS HOUSING CELEBRATES NATIONAL HOMEOWNERSHIP MONTH

--First Time Homebuyer Honored with Tree Planting and Governor's Proclamation--



Officials from KHRC, the City of Salina, Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Security Savings Bank and RE/MAX Advantage Realtors celebrate National Homeownership Month with First Time Homebuyer Craig Mehler.

**SALINA** – Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC) celebrated National Homeownership Month this week with a tree planting in Salina. Officials from KHRC, the City of Salina, the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Security Savings Bank and RE/MAX Advantage Realtors recognized Craig Mehler's entry into the homeownership market by planting a Crimson King Maple tree. Mehler purchased his first home through KHRC's First Time Homebuyer Program (FTHB).



First-time homebuyer Craig Mehler, Diane Kesler and their two children Kiera and Gabriel.

"I always rented before, because purchasing a home wasn't something I could ever afford," said Mehler.

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“Thanks to down payment assistance through KHRC, buying a home was much easier! With taxes and homeowners insurance, I only pay five dollars more a month than when I was renting.”

The program provided Mehler with \$11,985 in down payment and closing cost assistance. Over the past year, KHRC has provided more than \$3.6 million in down payment assistance to help 249 qualified buyers purchase a home.

In addition to the tree planting, officials presented Mehler with a signed Governor’s proclamation and a bouquet of Sunflowers, the state flower of Kansas.



Gary Allsup of KHRC presents new homeowner Craig Mehler with a signed Governor’s proclamation honoring Homeownership Month.

“Homeownership builds wealth, produces a sense of accomplishment and encourages Kansans to take pride in their neighborhoods,” said Gary Allsup, KHRC Executive Director. “We’re proud to make safe, affordable homes possible for hard working individuals like Craig.”

Dennis Lauver, President of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce says homeownership not only strengthens communities, it also helps the economy.

"Workforce housing that is available near local jobs and affordable at local wages is vital to a thriving economy," said Lauver. "Housing helps employers recruit and retain good workers, improve productivity and expand operations, generating more jobs."

Judy Irvin with the City of Salina says homeownership inspires responsibility.

“As homeowners accumulate wealth and the investment in their homes grows, they often become more involved in their communities," said Irvin. "Neighborhoods become healthier and safer, and communities benefit from real estate taxes homeowners pay.”

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Judy Irvin with the City of Salina presents Mehler with a bouquet of Sunflowers, the state flower of Kansas.



Ken Nowlin, Regional President for Security Savings Bank discusses the benefits of homeownership on communities and the economy.



KHRC Homeownership Manager Christine Reimler and Shareon White, VP of Mortgage Loans at Security Savings.



RE/MAX Realtor John Bossemeyer congratulates Craig on his new home purchase.

Kansas Housing Resources Corporation is a quasi-public entity that finances and develops affordable housing opportunities for low and moderate-income residents throughout Kansas. For more information about the First Time Homebuyer Program and other KHRC services, visit [www.kshousingcorp.org](http://www.kshousingcorp.org).