

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Media Contact:**

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**Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County to Celebrate 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Breakfast Event**

**FREDERICK, MD, April 2018** – Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County was founded in 1993 as an initiative of Church Women United and local citizens concerned with the shortage of affordable housing available for the local workforce. At the time, 1 in 5 homes could not afford a place to live. Since that time, Habitat Frederick has worked to provide affordable home ownership solutions to the local workforce. Now, in 2018 the organization is celebrating 25 years of history, but also looking towards the future, as the need for such services continues to grow.

Over the course of 25 years, Habitat's programs have given 37 individuals and families the chance to become homeowners when it would have been impossible otherwise. This has been accomplished through the organization's original program of constructing new residences, which continues to this day, but also through the Affordable Housing Land Trust, which was added to the organization's programs in 2013 to create housing units that would remain in affordability well into the future. Additionally, the organization began offering home repair services in 2010 through the Neighborhood Revitalization program, and now serves dozens of households each year where residents who already own their own homes cannot afford needed repairs. This program serves a large number of senior citizens in the community, often providing aging in place services in addition to the needed repairs.

Habitat Frederick will host a Celebratory Breakfast event on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 8am at All Saints' Episcopal Church to celebrate this momentous 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The event will bring together current and past Board members, volunteers, homeowners and Habitat supporters, all who have worked together to continue the mission "putting God's love into action, Habitat builds homes, communities and hope". The event will feature a video message from Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, congratulating the local affiliate on their accomplishments and anniversary. While celebrating the organization's history, the event will also shine the light on the current affordable housing needs of the community where now 1 in 3 homes struggles to make ends meet. Rebecca Lookingbill, future homeowner of Habitat Frederick's current home build, will share her story as a single mother, providing for two children, in today's extremely expensive housing market. Habitat Frederick's Executive Director, Ron Cramer, will share with those in attendance plans for future projects and changes to Habitat's work, which will allow the organization to continue serving people like Rebecca, and expand the number of people served each year.

Those interested in celebrating with Habitat Frederick can learn more about the anniversary and register for the breakfast event on the organization's website at [www.frederickhabitat.org](http://www.frederickhabitat.org). Pre-registration to the event is required for attendance.

**About Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County:**

No matter who we are or where we come from, we all deserve a decent life. We deserve to feel strength and stability day after day. We deserve to know we have power to take care of ourselves and build our own futures. At Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County, this is what unites us. Through shelter, we empower. Our vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. For 25 years, Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County has worked toward that by providing affordable home ownership solutions to hardworking people in Frederick County. Because every one of us deserves the opportunity for a better future. **Mission:** Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

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