PRESS RELEASE

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Habitat for Humanity of Evansville Kicks Off 500th Home Celebration

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (June 14, 2018) – Habitat for Humanity of Evansville announced today the kickoff of its 500th home celebration and released the organization's upcoming events. The announcement was made during a press conference at Nazarene Baptist Church, located in the Ballard neighborhood where the 500th home will be built.

Of the 1,250+ Habitat affiliates across the nation, only 25 others – primarily large cities and areas affected by natural disaster – have accomplished the feat of building 500 homes.

The impact created locally from Habitat's affordable homeownership is far-reaching … from an economic impact of $2,153,119 in the last fiscal year to Habitat homeowners paying $701,781 in mortgage payments in 2017 to children doing better in school and homeowners increasing their overall financial wellbeing.

"Habitat for Humanity helps families achieve strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership," says Beth Folz, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Evansville. "It is with immense pride and enthusiasm that we work toward building the 500th Habitat home in Evansville and Mt. Vernon. The accomplishment of this milestone would not have been achieved without the dedicated supporters in our community … so on behalf of Habitat and all of the families who have been served through partnership with this ministry since 1984, thank you!"

In the coming months, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville will be raising funds for the 501st Habitat home through two campaigns – *Change for Change* and *500 @ $100*. When you see a house bank with Habitat's "500 New Homes & Counting" image in your school, your bank, or favorite restaurant, please give what you can to help fund the 501st Habitat home in Evansville through the *Change for Change* campaign. Meanwhile, the *500 @ $100* campaign seeks to encourage 500 people in the community, who are new donors to Habitat, to give at the $100 level.

The groundbreaking for the 500th Habitat home, a community build, is scheduled for Wednesday, August 15, in the Ballard Neighborhood. The specific site of the home will be determined by the future Habitat homeowner once they reach 150 hours of sweat equity. At this time, the individual/family has not been determined. The wall raising for the house is expected to be in September and the home dedication is set for late December.

Prior to the home dedication, Habitat invites the entire community to join in the celebration at a Habitat-themed basketball game on December 9, 2018. The game will begin at 2 PM C.S.T. at the Ford Center with University of Evansville taking on Ball State. A 500-voice choir will be performing at half-time to commemorate the completion of Habitat's 500th home.

Individuals interested in getting involved with Habitat for Humanity should go to www.evansvillehabitat.org to sign up to volunteer, donate or to receive more information.

About Habitat for Humanity of Evansville: Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. Founded in 1984, Habitat is anchored by the conviction that housing provides a critical foundation for breaking the cycle of poverty. By partnering with the community, Habitat enables low-income families to become homeowners in Vanderburgh and Posey counties. To be eligible for homeownership, individuals or families must have an income at or below 80 percent of the area median income. They must also have a need for housing, a willingness to partner by contributing 300 hours in sweat equity and attending homeownership classes, and have the ability to pay a 25-year, no-interest mortgage. For more information, please visit http://www.evansvillehabitat.org.

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