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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Roof Goes Up on Habitat House Funded and Built
By First Scots Presbyterian Church**

**Church Members Have Raised Roughly $400,000 Over Two Decades to Help Local Families**

Charleston, SC - February 10, 2016 – Volunteers will raise the roof this Saturday, February 13 at the newest house built by [Charleston Habitat for Humanity](http://www.charlestonhabitat.org/).

The house is being funded and built by the congregation at [First (Scots) Presbyterian Church](http://www.first-scots.org/), which has funded and built half-a-dozen over the past two decades. First Scots has raised roughly $400,000 for these projects.

The house will be purchased by Veta Sumter and her three children with a no-interest mortgage from Charleston Habitat and a down payment of 500 work hours, known as “sweat equity.”

Rob Dillon, a scientist by trade, has volunteered on all six houses. “I don't feel as though I'm volunteering; I feel like I'm being swept up, helpless, in a double-blessing.  Our Lord blesses one set of His servants with a house, and a second set of His servants with the good works to bring it about.  And I wonder if I, in that second set, may have received the greater gift.”

Adds Paul Hadley, who has also volunteered since the 1990s, and is helping to coordinate this year’s project, "To be able to help families achieve home ownership is remarkably fulfilling and, since I really like to bang nails, we all benefit from the effort."

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Full sponsorship of a house through Charleston Habitat costs $75,000. First Scots provided full sponsorships of previous houses. This time around, church members decided to provide a large challenge match to other local Presbyterian congregations. Construction has begun while Habitat raises the funds from other churches.

For Sumter, home ownership is not just a dream come true, it’s the payoff on long hours of hard work, financial literacy classes and a serious vetting process. Her work to complete 500 hours of sweat equity -- with the help of her two teenagers, Kristen and Corey -- began on a neighbor’s house and will be completed during construction of this house. The family will purchase their Habitat home at cost with a no-interest Habitat mortgage.

Each week on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, volunteer work crews, led by professional construction staff, build everything from the floor to the roof. For the past two decades, First Scots volunteers have been fed by Rebecca Patte and her volunteer crew.

Building houses for families in need is just one of 16 local ministries funded by the congregation at First Scots Presbyterian Church, located at 53 Meeting St. in downtown Charleston.

Charleston Habitat for Humanity provides affordable home ownership opportunities for working families of moderate income in the cities of Charleston and North Charleston. Since its establishment in 1989, Charleston Habitat for Humanity has built 79 new homes, completed 13 major renovations, completed innumerable repairs and changed the lives of more than 500 Charleston community members.

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