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Community Collaboration Provides Hope to Three Generational Family

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla.; July 5, 2013 – Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka held a Dedication Ceremony for a home at 1401 West 13th Place in Sanford on June 26, 2013. The project was a collaborative effort supported with funding provided by JP Morgan Chase, the City of Sanford and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Seminole County HOME Funds and the Habitat ReStores in Sanford and Casselberry. The collaboration was critical for this project; the largest home ever built by the local affiliate for a three generational family of nine.

The property is the site of the original home occupied by Miss Mattie McCray, her son and seven great-grandchildren. The home was in such bad condition that Habitat made a rare move and demolished the structure, electing to build a new home on the property. A Sanford resident since 1951, this is the first time in 75 years that Miss Mattie will be living in a home with air conditioning or heat. After months of living in temporary housing, Miss Mattie and her family living in a home that provides enough room for everyone. It will be the first time that some of the children have had a bed to sleep in. When they head back to school in just a couple of months, they will be able to talk with their friends about their new room and be able to invite friends over to play. They have a real home now, one that will make a significant difference in their lives.

This home provides them with an environment where children thrive; their own bed, place to play, and place to study. They are 25% more likely to graduate from high school and 116% more likely to graduate from college. They have benefited from and understand the value and importance of helping others, so they will likely do the same.

“This is the largest home Habitat for Humanity of Seminole-Apopka has ever built. It is a wonderful example of an entire community coming together to make a difference in the lives of this three generation family.” said Penny Seater, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka. “The combination of both private and public funds coupled with the hundreds of volunteers who came out to help us build, ensures that this family has a safe, affordable home where they will all thrive. The effects of this collaborative effort will be felt for generations.”

Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka has completed more than 130 homes throughout the community. An additional new home is underway in Apopka and another one scheduled to start in a few months in Sanford. Along with the new construction, nine rehabs are in process throughout the county. The affiliate’s construction capacity has more than doubled over the last year.

Habitat for Humanity is a global, ecumenical housing ministry that seeks to build and renovate safe, decent and affordable houses in partnership with very low- to moderate-income residents of communities. The ultimate goal of Habitat for Humanity is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness by building adequate and basic housing. To date, Habitat for Humanity of Seminole County and Greater Apopka has built and renovated more than 130 local homes. Incorporated in 1991, the offices are located in Sanford, Fla. To learn more about Habitat Seminole & Apopka or to make a donation, call (407) 696-5855 or visit <http://HabitatSeminoleApopka.org>.