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## **Toyota shows commitment to the community in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley**

**ANN ARBOR, Mich. (Aug. 31, 2018)** – On Saturday, Sept. 15, an executive-led team of roughly 25 volunteers from Toyota Motor North America Research & Development (TMNA R&D) will wrap up a 13-week volunteer-driven renovation project at two Habitat renovation housing projects in Ypsilanti to help provide affordable homeownership for low-income families and individuals. Following the work day, Habitat is hosting a home dedication for the Lindsey Family, who will soon close on their Habitat home that was one of two homes renovated last summer by TMNA R&D.

“Toyota’s continued commitment to our organization is invaluable in our work of building stronger communities in Washtenaw County,” said Sarah Stanton, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley. “Toyota’s investment in our community has made a tremendous local impact over the years and has helped us grow from building a handful of houses 30 years ago to renovating 18 houses and serving or assisting roughly 1,000 existing homeowners this year.”

The projects mark the 11<sup>th</sup> year of TMNA R&D’s commitment to Habitat’s community work with nearly \$500,000 in funding and more than 19,400 employee hours. This summer marks the second year that TMNA R&D has provided funding and volunteers for two Habitat properties.

Additionally, TMNA R&D has also provided representatives to serve on the Habitat Board of Directors and additional Habitat committees, such as the Family Selection Committee, for the past 5 years.

“Our partnership over 11 years, our team members have volunteered over thousands of hours to build homes in Ypsilanti. We value our partnership with Habitat for Humanity Huron Valley and are committed to continue to help improve our community together,” said Pradeep Balakrishnan, Executive Engineer Toyota Motor North America R&D and Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley Board Member.

On Sept. 15, TMNA R&D employees will work 9 AM – 4 PM at 2828 and 2827 Woodruff Lane, Ypsilanti, just a few miles from the two houses renovated by employees last year. The Home Dedication of the Lindsey Family will be at 4 PM in Ypsilanti.

Ericka Lindsey and her son Brandin are most excited about “making our house a home.” Ericka, who earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the International Academy of Design and Technology said Brandin is most excited about having his own backyard to play in.



In the last year, Habitat has served and assisted 1,197 families in Washtenaw County through its programs and worked with 5,909 volunteers who have donated time on build sites and in the ReStore. With the help of sponsors, such as TMNA R&D, Habitat is able to revitalize neighborhoods and continue to build or renovate 18 houses each year and serve or assist an additional 1,000 families and individuals with home improvement projects, financial education classes and community development activities.

**About Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley**

Established in 1989, Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley works to enrich Washtenaw County through a legacy of affordable homeownership for families and individuals of low income. Each year, Habitat serves or assists more than 1,000 families and individuals through its Home Ownership Program, Home Improvement Program, Veterans Program, Financial Education and Community Development Program. Habitat has built or renovated more than 200 homes and served or assisted more than 5,000 households in Washtenaw County. For more information, visit [www.h4h.org](http://www.h4h.org).

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