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**Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley to turn over the keys of six homes to Habitat homebuyers in June**

**ANN ARBOR, MI (May 30, 2018)** – Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley (Habitat Huron Valley) will hand over the keys of six newly renovated or built houses in Ypsilanti or Ann Arbor to six Habitat homebuyers during the month of June.

Each of the six families or individuals living in Washtenaw County have completed ‘sweat equity’ hours, which includes helping work on Habitat homes, participating in home maintenance classes and receiving one-on-one financial education classes. Each qualified Habitat homeowner will purchase the homes from Habitat Huron Valley with an affordable mortgage. In total, Habitat Huron Valley will have sold 19 houses to Habitat homebuyers in the last fiscal year.

“We believe that strong and stable homes build strong and stable communities,” said Sarah Stanton, Executive Director of Habitat Huron Valley. “We are thrilled to provide affordable homeownership to families and individuals of low income in an effort to stabilize our neighborhoods and provide opportunities for growth. We are grateful for every hand that has helped make these houses a home.”

In 2008, Habitat Huron Valley switched from all new builds to renovations of foreclosed homes and began to renovate homes using Energy Star guidelines – which end up saving Habitat homebuyers approximately $1,000 a year in utility costs. In 2011, the organization launched the Home Improvement Program, to help existing homeowners who cannot afford repairs and upgrades to their homes in the neighborhoods Habitat serves. Such programs include a refrigerator replacement program and furnace test and tune. In 2014, the organization began the Habitat Education program, which centers on providing financial education classes and counseling for those denied for the homeownership program and the general public.

In the last year, Habitat Huron Valley has served and assisted 1,197 families in Washtenaw County through programs, worked with 5,909 volunteers who have donated time on build sites and in the ReStore.

To honor each Habitat homeowner, Habitat Huron Valley will host a Dedication Open House, where volunteers, sponsors and supporters will celebrate the homeowner’s achievement.

The first dedication will be held on Sunday, June 3 at 3 PM for Diane Goff, the future homeowner of a residence on Bud Avenue in Ypsilanti, sponsored by the J Ferrantino Foundation. The second dedication will be Monday, June 6 at 5:30 PM for Adriana Ponce and her daughter Ysela, the future homeowners of a house on Hunter Avenue in Ypsilanti, and one of two houses sponsored by Toyota Motor North America – Research and Development.

Other dedications include Habitat Huron Valley’s first new build on Jeff Avenue in Ypsilanti in several years for the Hickman family on Monday, June 11 at 5:30 PM and the Women Build house, the future home of Shawna Swoffer on Sunday, June 24 at 3:30 PM.

**About Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley**Established in 1989, Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley has built or renovated over 200 homes in Washtenaw County. Habitat homeowners qualify for an affordable mortgage from Habitat, make a $1,000 down payment, and put in at least 250 hours (per adult household member) of “sweat equity” building their home. Habitat has expanded to provide home improvement projects to low-income families in neighborhoods we already target, providing over 500 such projects since 2011. For more information, visit [www.h4h.org](http://www.h4h.org).

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