

Media Contact

Tanisha Morris 407-494-4919

tanisha.morris@andbarr.co

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County launches new program to provide home insurance education, tools and inspections

ORLANDO, Fla. (July 25, 2023) – <u>Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County</u> has launched a new program to potentially reduce home insurance costs, and uncover home maintenance issues and critical home preservation obstacles. With Florida consistently ranking in the top five disaster prone states, helping Central Floridians prepare for hurricane season is essential.

Habitat Inspects provides qualified homeowners free wind mitigation inspection vouchers, valued at \$150, to help reduce home insurance costs and maintenance issues. In addition to the free inspections, the program also provides free educational disaster preparedness and home insurance courses to the public. The program will help families take preventative action to protect their most important asset, their home.

To apply for Habitat Inspects, participants must first attend Habitat U's Disaster Preparedness & Home Insurance Class held every month. The next class is Wednesday, July 26 from 10 a.m. - noon at the nonprofit's headquarters, 4116 Silver Star Road. During the class, experts will provide tips from licensed home inspectors and participants will learn how to file claims with a home insurance agent. The class is a part of Habitat U, a series of free educational classes on home ownership, offered throughout the year.

The program is made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the Universal Orlando Foundation with support from Wesco and Duke Energy.

"Support from Universal Orlando Foundation and other partners helps us with our goal to not only build safe, affordable homes but to preserve and repair existing homes," said Catherine Steck McManus, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County. "As Central Florida confronts an affordable housing crisis—made worse by inflation and supply chain challenges—community partners are essential to achieving our mission."

The nonprofit's new program serves as a vital component to their comprehensive plan to <u>Face</u> the <u>Housing CrisisTM</u> with its Cornerstone HousingTM Framework. The Framework aims to restore balance in the housing market by addressing key challenges while conveying the pressing need for affordable housing solutions through an evolved social service model. To learn more about the Cornerstone HousingTM Framework, visit FaceTheHousingCrisis.org.

For more information about Habitat Inspects as well as qualification criteria, click here.

About Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County

Driven by a vision that everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to live, Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County builds and repairs homes, educates homeowners and strengthens communities. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat Orlando & Osceola to build or improve places to call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Working together by donating, volunteering or becoming an advocate, everyone can help members of our community live in safe, affordable homes. Founded in 1986, Habitat Orlando & Osceola has built, rehabbed, or repaired over 800 homes throughout Central Florida. The nonprofit has achieved recognition as one of the 40 "top producers" out of over 1,100 affiliates working in communities throughout the United States and in more than 70 countries. To learn more, visit

visit HabitatOrlandoOsceola.org.

###