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Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County hosts Groundbreaking Ceremony on New Home Build

FREDERICK, July 16, 2015

On Wednesday, July 15, 2015, Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County hosted a Ceremonial Groundbreaking at an empty dirt lot on C Street in Brunswick, MD for the organization's newest home build. The ceremony kicked off the official build phase of the project, which has been in the organizations planning phases for more than a year. Now that building has begun, Habitat in partnership with the sponsor of the build, The Tyler Companies, will transform the property from a dirt lot into a residential property, complete with a 3-bedroom home for a deserving family.

The ceremony brought together community leaders such as Brunswick Mayor, Karin Tome, County Council President, Bud Otis, and County Executive Jan Gardner who commented on the importance of providing affordable housing options in Frederick County. In addition, Chad Tyler, President of Tyler-Donagan Real Estate of the The Tyler Companies addressed the crowd in regards to the partnership with Habitat. "Tyler Companies is excited and pleased to work with Habitat in leading the C Street home build. Tyler values and appreciates Habitat for Humanity's great track record which has increased home ownership opportunities among low and moderate income families" said Tyler. The Tyler Companies has been a long-term corporate partner of Habitat, supporting previous build projects and designating employees to serve on Habitat's Board of Directors. Through such interactions, Tyler became interested in expanding the partnership. He and his team determined that with the help of subcontractors, The Tyler Companies could sponsor a full house build and that is now coming to fruition on C Street. "Tyler is also pleased that other major subcontractors rallied to support this Habitat project by donating their products or services. These include Pleasants Excavating, North Star Foundations, TNT Windows, Architectural Design Group and B&R Design Group" said Tyler.

With the support from the The Tyler Companies and subcontractors in place, Habitat's Family Services Committee began reviewing applicants for the new home. Individuals and families applying for this type of home must have a housing need, earn 30-60% of the median income and be willing to partner with Habitat to be considered. After careful review it was determined that Cynthia and Michael Heim, with their two children, would be the right family for this home. The Heims are currently living in substandard conditions with far too little space for the size of the family despite the stable employment of both Cynthia and Michael. The Heim family was in attendance at the ceremony and participated in the ceremonial shoveling, signifying the beginning of construction. That shoveling also signifies the start of their work on the project. In keeping with Habitat for Humanity practices, the family will contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity" over the next 4-6 months to aid in the completion of the home. At that time, they will purchase the home with a \$500 down

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payment and low-interest rate loan. The sweat equity and terms of purchase are all part of Habitat's aim to give a hand up, not a hand out. This methodology gives hardworking families, like the Heims, a chance at affordable homeownership, a chance they might not otherwise have in the traditional market.

About Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County:

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry, who invite people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. For more information about Habitat for Humanity, please visit our website at www.frederickhabitat.org or call (301) 698-2449.