



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 3, 2017

Contact: Jocelyn Peskin
Habitat for Humanity
2630 NW 41st St C-3, Gainesville, FL 32606
Office (352) 363-6495 Mobile (352) 339-4547
Email: jpeskin@alachuahabitat.org

Alachua Women Build Completes 9th House In Partnership With Local Mother and Daughter

Gainesville, FL – After months of hard work, Alachua Women Build (AWB) has completed construction of their 9th house in Alachua County. By the end of the year, Jessica and her daughter will have transitioned into their new home and will be able to enjoy all of the benefits that homeownership brings. Join us on **Saturday, January 7 at 10:00 am** to celebrate their home dedication at **541 NW 37th Ave** in Gainesville.

AWB is a Habitat for Humanity program providing safe, affordable homes that are constructed by women volunteers. The program empowers women to learn new skills and take on leadership roles in construction, while building a home in partnership with a hardworking family. AWB has been empowering women from all walks of life to address local affordable housing needs in Alachua County since 1995.

Over 175 women of all ages, from teens to retirees, participated in building AWB's 9th house. Few had construction experience, yet all worked and learned together in a spirit of collaboration, support, and camaraderie.

AWB raised much of the money to cover the construction costs of House #9 from a variety of sources. These included grants from Lowe's and The Women's Giving Circle of North Central Florida and donations, large and small, from numerous supporters in the county. Chase Bank donated the property to Habitat for Humanity, and Publix Charities provided both funds and volunteer builders. Members of the Jasmine Circle of the Gainesville Garden Club (GGC) designed the landscaping and installed plants that were donated by the GGC.

Jessica, a hard-working single mother, is the epitome of women's empowerment that AWB is working toward. Jessica had her daughter and was on her own by 18 years of age. Despite the obstacles she faced, she never gave up hope. Jessica embraced the partnership with Habitat and has completed the requirements with a joyful, positive attitude. She has learned valuable skills by participating in the construction of her own home and will soon see her dreams of safe, decent, and affordable home for her daughter become a reality.

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Alachua Habitat for Humanity supports its homeownership program through donations, grants, and principal payments from family partners. Habitat is a hand-up to a homeowner not a hand-out - all assume an affordable mortgage for their homes at the end of their 400 committed sweat equity hours. The principal paid by Habitat Family Partners is then used to build more homes, allowing our families the opportunity to pay forward the gift of homeownership.

2630 NW 41st Street, Suite C-3, Gainesville, FL 32606
Phone: 352-378-4663 | Fax: 352-378-2306