



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alachua Habitat for Humanity Dedicates Home in Newberry in Honor of Pope Francis

Newberry – The Rooks family will celebrate the dedication of their new home this weekend thanks to community members who dedicated countless hours of volunteer labor.

The new home, sponsored by an anonymous Catholic donor and matching funds from the local Catholic community, was built in honor of Pope Francis for his commitment to social justice and reinvigorating the Catholic Church. The Rooks' new home was constructed at Santa Fe College's Charles R. Perry Construction Institute and transported by truck to the family's land, where volunteers and community partners worked together to complete the home by adding a front porch, back porch, driveway, landscaping, and other final touches. The home dedication celebration will take place at **29317 NW 46th Avenue, Newberry on Sunday, May 22, 2016 at 2:00 pm.**

The mobile home the Rooks family lived in had mold problems, along with rodent and insect infestations. Tommy Rooks, a disabled veteran, needed a safe home for his own health as well as that of his family. "I have tried all of my life to provide for my family and to give them what they need to survive in life," Mr. Rooks said. "I can't say how wonderful it is to have people helping my family out. I'm at a loss for words with how thankful I am for these people giving their time to help my family."

Alachua Habitat for Humanity supports its homeownership program through donations, grants, and principal payments from family partners. Habitat is a hand-up to a home owner not a hand-out - all homeowners 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.

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