



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **From Homelessness to Homeownership - Interfaith Congregations and Habitat for Humanity Help Local Mother and Her Daughters Build a Home**

**Gainesville, FL** – Please join us for the home dedication ceremony in which first-time homeowner Melinda will receive the key to her new home. The home dedication will take place at **6:00 pm on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>** at **1010 SE 18<sup>th</sup> Terrace** in Gainesville.

Interfaith builds provide an opportunity for congregations from all religions to build on their faiths, collaborate, and share their love through an Alachua Habitat for Humanity construction project. This is the fifth house built by Interfaith Partners in Alachua County. During the build process, various faith partners provided volunteers, meals, and support as Melinda's house was built from the ground up. For Melinda, faith has been an important aspect of her life. She has never lost her faith despite the challenging, and often unsafe conditions she and her daughters have faced – even homelessness. She volunteers at her church and the local St. Francis House and served as a team leader for her home build. The partnership between Melinda and the local faith community was a perfect match as each step of the build process involved faith, love, and hope for a better tomorrow.

What makes Interfaith Build projects special, according to Alachua Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Scott Winzeler, is that "not only do people from different faiths have an opportunity to build together, but it allows us all to pray together and eat together, getting to know each other and the expressions of faith we each build our spiritual lives upon. This is an expression of true community."

The home build was also sponsored by Homeownership for All, Inc., the City of Gainesville, and Wells Fargo. As always, this Alachua Habitat home build demonstrates the way in which the community so often comes together to address affordable housing needs. Join Melinda, those involved in the build process, and other community members to celebrate a positive change in the life of a deserving family.

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Founded in 1986, Alachua Habitat for Humanity is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We envision a world where everyone has a decent place to live and we work towards that vision by bringing people together to build strength, stability, and independence through shelter. To accomplish these goals, we invite people of all backgrounds, races, and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need of affordable housing. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Alachua Habitat has built more than 130 homes in the local community. Habitat houses are sold to homeowner families at no profit and financed with affordable loans. For more information visit [www.alachuahabitat.org](http://www.alachuahabitat.org)