



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Home Dedication for Sixth House Built by Santa Fe Construction Students in Partnership with Habitat for Humanity

Gainesville, FL – In the true spirit of community partnership, engagement, and education, Shereka and her children will celebrate the dedication of their new home on **Tuesday, December 13th, at 6:00 pm**. The home dedication celebration will take place at **512 NW 26th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32609**.

Citizens State Bank (CSB), a proud community partner, sponsored the house which was built by Santa Fe College construction students and apprentices. Funds from the City of Gainesville were also used towards the construction of the house. Alachua Habitat's partnership with Santa Fe College's Charles R. Perry Construction Institute facilitates the training of construction professionals while assisting in Habitat's mission to provide safe, affordable, and decent housing in our community. Shereka's house is the sixth completed through the Santa Fe College partnership. The house was built in two sections on campus and was transported to the final destination on May 19, 2016. Once the house was assembled at its final destination, Shereka and numerous volunteers worked tirelessly to complete the build.

Shereka is a full time employee at the VA Medical Hospital, where she works as a health tech in the emergency department. She is also a single mother of five children. For Shereka, her children are her motivation in life and her strength throughout the long process of becoming a Habitat homeowner. She and her children currently rent an apartment in an area with numerous safety concerns. Despite the challenges, the family remains positive, joyful, and makes the best of what they have. They are excited and grateful that they will soon be able to live in a safe, stable home that they can call their own. The reality of homeownership is possible thanks to Shereka's hard work and dedication, the support of CSB, Santa Fe College, Alachua Habitat for Humanity, and the numerous volunteers and community sponsors who donated time, money, and materials along the way.

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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 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. For more information, visit www.alachuahabitat.org