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**Contact:**

Leah Borst, Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley

734-882-2004

lborst@h4h.org

**Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley celebrates 30th birthday**

**[YPSILANTI, Mich.** (June 11, 2019)] – On Friday, Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley (Habitat) celebrates its 30th year of serving low- and mid-income families and individuals in Washtenaw County. Since 1989, the organization has built or renovated more than 200 homes and served or assisted more than 5,000 households in Washtenaw County. To celebrate, the organization will deliver cupcakes to the 34 volunteers at three separate Habitat construction projects in Ypsilanti.

“For 30 years, we’ve continued to build upon our foundation of providing strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter,” said Habitat Executive Director Sarah Stanton. “We now expand beyond homeowners to the community as a whole. We provide families with the necessary tools to build stronger communities, because we believe that strong and stable homes build strong and stable communities.”

In 30 years, Habitat has grown from building 4 – 5 homes a year to building 19 a year, as well as serving an additional 1,000 residents with home improvement projects and assisting 300 families and individuals with the Habitat financial education program.

In 1989, seven founding board members worked to secure funding, land, a family and procedures to build the organization’s first home for the Homes Family in Ypsilanti, which was completed in 1990. About 175 volunteers contributed to the project, which cost the organization $30,000 to build. The Homes’ four children have since grown, but Stephanie and Maurice still reside in the home. At the time, Maurice said “All I wanted to do was give my family a safe, warm place to live and now I can do that… It just goes to show that when you get caring people together as a community, anything can be done.”

In 1997, Habitat began building 4 – 5 homes a year and in 2006 the ReStore opened. In 2008, with the housing market crisis, Habitat switched from building new homes to renovating existing homes in targeted neighborhoods. Three years later, the organization launched the Community Development Program to facilitate and provide support for community planning and organization work within the targeted neighborhoods to make their community a better place to live and work. The following year, Habitat started the Home Improvement Program to help keep families in their homes and reduce energy and maintenance costs for the community as a whole.

Today, Habitat has been named the No. 1 Habitat affiliate in the country for home renovations and the No. 1 affiliate in the state for number of families served.

In 30 years, Habitat has provided 5,626 home improvement projects, engaged with 5,270 residents and community partners through community development activities, served 697 through the Habitat Education Program and closed 217 homes. Beyond the local community, Habitat has also provided more than $716,000 to overseas Habitat work.

**About Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley**Established in 1989, Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley works to enrich Washtenaw County through a legacy of affordable homeownership for families and individuals of low income. Each year, Habitat serves or assists more than 1,000 families and individuals through its Home Ownership Program, Home Improvement Program, Veterans Program, Financial Education and Community Development Program. Habitat has built or renovated more than 200 homes and served or assisted more than 5,000 households in Washtenaw County. For more information, visit [www.h4h.org](http://www.h4h.org).

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