**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna in Washington, D.C., to Oppose Proposed Federal Cuts**

**That Would Exacerbate Affordable Housing Crisis in Harford and Cecil Counties**

*Habitat Susquehanna Joins Over 340 Habitat leaders, Homeowners and Volunteers*

*in Washington, D.C., to Encourage Members of Congress to Support Affordable Housing*

**BEL AIR, MD (February 15, 2018) –** Representatives of Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna are in Washington, D.C., this week, warning that proposed federal cuts will worsen the affordable housing crisis facing Harford and Cecil counties and other communities across the U.S.

“Too many people in the communities where we serve – Harford and Cecil counties – are already struggling between making their housing payments and buying food for their family,” said Karen Blandford, Executive Director of Habitat Susquehanna. “We are in Washington, D.C., to ask our representatives on Capitol Hill to make greater investments in affordable housing, not less.”

The budget proposed by the White House this week would drastically cut – and in some cases entirely eliminate – funding that communities use to finance the development of new affordable homes. Habitat Susquehanna uses funding from HOME (Home Investment Partnerships Program), SHOP (Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program), and CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) to help fund its Homeownership and/or Repair programs. The White House budget proposal would eliminate those funds entirely.

Habitat Susquehanna joins more than 340 Habitat leaders, volunteers and homeowners from across the country in Washington, D.C., this week to advocate for affordable housing. In meetings with Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger and the staff of Senator Ben Cardin and Rep. Andy Harris, Habitat Susquehanna is calling on Congress to set aside the flawed budget proposal and instead work to prioritize solutions that will end the affordable housing crisis.

“There is no question that we are in an affordable housing crisis,” said Habitat for Humanity International CEO Jonathan Reckford. “More than 18 million families are paying more than half of their paychecks on their housing. Leaders in cities and towns across the country are sounding the alarm, because even middle-class workers like teachers can no longer find housing that fits their budgets. We will make sure those voices are heard in Washington this week as we meet with members of Congress.”

The White House’s proposed budget would also eliminate the AmeriCorps program through the shuttering of the Corporation for National and Community Service. AmeriCorps is a vital component of Habitat Susquehanna’s work to partner with more families working towards homeownership. Thousands of AmeriCorps members have served their communities in a variety of ways, including more than 10,000 members working through Habitat where they have helped build homes and helped rebuild in disaster-stricken areas.

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**About Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, Inc.**

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, Inc. is an ecumenical Christian housing organization devoted to building, renovating and repairing houses in partnership with the community in Cecil and Harford counties. Since its inception in 1993, Habitat Susquehanna has served over 700 families through its Homeownership, Repair and Financial Literacy programs.  For more information, call 410-638-4434 (Harford County) or 410-398-3399 (Cecil County), or visit [www.habitatsusq.org](http://www.habitatsusq.org).