



MEDIA ADVISORY

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(Note: Photo and Video Opportunity Available)

Dedication ceremony planned for single-family home built by the students of the Cecil County School of Technology

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna is holding a home dedication ceremony for Felicia Hanna and her family at 2 Manor Road, Elkton. She is the single mother of three children (ages 13, 8 and 5). Her future home was built by the students of the Cecil County School of Technology (CCST) under the supervision of their instructors, and with oversight from Habitat Susquehanna.

WHAT: Habitat Susquehanna is holding a home dedication ceremony for Felicia's house. Dedication ceremonies celebrate the completion of the homeownership process with the Habitat homebuyer, volunteers, donors, sponsors, Board members, Habitat staff and community members. (The ceremony is held before the homebuyer goes to settlement.)

WHO: Invitees include Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna staff, Board members, volunteers and AmeriCorps members; CCST representatives; Habitat homebuyer Felicia Hanna and her family and friends; house sponsors; and, the general public.

WHEN: Thursday, October 19
1 PM
(There will be a short program followed by a house tour and light refreshments.)

WHERE: 2 Manor Road, Elkton*
***NOTE:** This event will take place in the Elkwood Estates neighborhood (not Hollingsworth Manor, which also has a similar address). For point of reference, it's the development just before the Redner's in Elkton.
PARKING: Street parking. We need to be respectful of the neighbors as this is in a residential neighborhood.

NOTE TO EDITOR (ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION):

- **CCST:** This is the fourth “Habi-Tech” home built by the students of the Cecil County School of Technology (CCST) in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna. (The first home was in 2011 on Cherry Lane in Elkton. The second home was in 2019 on Richmond Street in Perryville. The third home was in 2021 on Walnut Street in Rising Sun.) It normally takes one year for Cecil Tech to build a “Habi-Tech” house from start to finish under the guidance of school instructors. The project teaches students across the trades programs multiple aspects of home design and construction.

The house is 1,152 sq. ft. with three bedrooms and two full bathrooms.

- **HOMEBUYER FELICIA HANNA:** The family story Felicia shared with us when she first applied to our Homeownership Program is as follows:

“I am a mother of three wonderful children...I work three different jobs to support my family. In the last couple years my children and I have moved multiple times due to unfortunate situation. As my children get older, I would love to be able to buy a house they can call home.”

- **LUMBER INCORPORATED FROM ROCKEFELLER CENTER TREE:** Habitat Susquehanna received lumber milled from the 2021 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree that came from Cecil County (a 79-foot Norway Spruce). It was the first donated Rockefeller Center Christmas tree to come from Maryland. (After the holiday season, and every year since 2007, Tishman Speyer, the owner and operator of Rockefeller Center, donates lumber milled from the tree to help a family build their Habitat for Humanity home.) The milled lumber was used in a Habitat home in Havre de Grace, as well as the CCST’s “Habi-Tech” home on Manor Road. The donor of that Rockefeller Christmas tree, Devon Price, volunteered with Habitat Susquehanna to put the milled 2x6 planks of lumber into window sills, trim and blocking.
- **HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM:** Habitat homes are not free. Habitat Susquehanna offers homebuyers an affordable mortgage with monthly payments and these mortgage payments made by Habitat homeowners help build more affordable homes. Each applicant who partners with Habitat Susquehanna (such as Felicia) must complete 250 hours of sweat equity before move-in day, building their home or the home of another Habitat homebuyer. They also attend mandatory financial education classes to learn good money management skills. By holding fundraisers and having volunteers build these homes, Habitat Susquehanna helps keep costs low and creates an opportunity for someone who couldn't afford a home the traditional way.

- **MAJOR HOUSE SPONSORS:** Battelle, Digging & Rigging, Inc., Fulton Forward Foundation, Hollywood Casino, Maryland Affordable Housing Trust, ODEC, Maryland Agricultural Education and Rural Development Assistance Fund, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development – Community Legacy.
- **OTHER VALUED SPONSORS & PARTNERS:** APGFCU, Decisive Data Systems, Enspire Energy, Faith Build churches in FY23, Gutter Guys, Modular Genius, The Nora Roberts Foundation, United Way of Cecil County, Carl and Lynn Lee.

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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.