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Habitat for Humanity International and 84 Habitat affiliates receive transformational \$436M gift from MacKenzie Scott

Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna --one of the 84 Habitat affiliates chosen -- will receive \$3.5M

BEL AIR, MD (March 24, 2022) – Habitat for Humanity International and 84 U.S. Habitat affiliate organizations recently received \$436M in unrestricted giving from American author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. Of that, Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna received \$3.5M.

“Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna is thankful and honored to be the recipient of this generous gift,” said David Crisp, President of the Board of Directors. “Through our various programs, including homeownership, repair, financial literacy, neighborhood revitalization, along with our ReStore, we have been able to serve so many families and individuals here in our community. We look forward to using this blessing to continue and expand our mission to provide safe and affordable housing here in Harford and Cecil Counties.”

This donation, along with continuing local support, comes at a time when the U.S. is facing a housing crisis, creating an overwhelming need for houses by families who do not have equitable access to a safe, decent and affordable place to call home.

“We are humbled and extremely grateful for this transformational gift,” said Habitat Susquehanna’s Executive Director Yvonne Golczewski. “Most of our grants are restricted for particular projects and it is very difficult to raise the funding to cover the administrative expenses that are necessary to run the organization. Adding that to the high cost of land and building materials, we need support now more than ever. This major gift is a tremendous opportunity for us to have greater long-term sustainability and better fulfill our mission. We

hope this will encourage other donors to feel good about supporting a stable and effective nonprofit.”

The donation will assist Habitat Susquehanna in its ongoing efforts to build decent, affordable homes in Harford and Cecil counties. Recently, Habitat Susquehanna held dedication ceremonies for its 118th and 119th homes. (These two homes were built in partnership with local technical high schools -- Harford Technical High School and the Cecil County School of Technology, respectively.) Another home dedication ceremony is scheduled in April for a townhouse (rehab) on Farm Road, Aberdeen. A wall raising ceremony is being held Friday at the third (and final) duplex of a seven-home subdivision created by Habitat Susquehanna at S. Stokes Street, Havre de Grace. And, the foundation work for a planned duplex on Erie Street, Havre de Grace, has begun.

For its part, Habitat International (Atlanta, GA) has announced that it will use its \$25 million portion of the donation to prioritize advocacy and programmatic efforts designed to dismantle systemic racism in housing. Specifically, the donation will allow Habitat to advocate for policy proposals and legislation that enable millions of people access affordable housing through its Cost of Home advocacy campaign; increase Black homeownership in the U.S. by targeting current systemic barriers through a new initiative that will launch this summer; and leverage innovative capital investments that service communities of color.

“Habitat works to break down barriers and bring people together — to tear down obstacles and build a world where everyone, no matter who we are or where we come from, has a decent place to live,” said Habitat International CEO Jonathan Reckford. “This incredible gift helps make that work possible.”

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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.