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Keys Handed Over to Newest Habitat Homeowner

Virtual home dedication ceremony held for 238 W Main Street, Elkton

BEL AIR, MD (Feb 23, 2021) – Ruby Simon, the newest Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna homeowner, symbolically received her house keys during a virtual home dedication ceremony on February 19. The dedication of 238 W Main Street, Elkton, was made through a video conference call between the staff and Board members of Habitat Susquehanna; and, Ruby, her family and her friends.

Due to the pandemic, the original plans were to hold the ceremony as a Facebook Live event in the home with only Ruby and her daughter, Amanda, and three Habitat Susquehanna staff members in attendance (to adhere to safe social distancing protocols). However, inclement weather prevented the attendees from traveling on the day of the event so it was changed to a video conference call and posted to Habitat Susquehanna’s Facebook page for public viewing.

In a separate videotaped message (also posted to Habitat Susquehanna’s Facebook page), Ruby and Amanda offered thanks to all of the people who were involved in building their home during the pandemic.

“We are so grateful to partner with Habitat for Humanity on this beautiful project,” said Amanda in the video.

“This home means so many things to us,” added Ruby. “It means independence, stability, home decorating projects, first holidays in our new home. Most importantly, it means that people are showing us love. They showed us love by coming out and helping to build our new home. So we thank you for that.”

During the ceremony, Habitat Susquehanna’s Executive Director Karen Blandford recognized the house sponsors: Atlantic Management Association, Gutter Guys, ODEC, and NORI. Other contributors were also recognized: the regular “core” volunteers, individual and group volunteers, and AmeriCorps members who were involved in building the home; American Home & Hardware; Town of Elkton; Elkton Lodge 851; Elkton Tile & Flooring; HGH Mechanical; IKEA; J.S. Dallas; Cecil County Central Landfill; Bay Country Builders; and, Orange Cans.

When she goes to settlement, Ruby will become the 114th Habitat Susquehanna homeowner since the organization was established in 1993.

Like all Habitat homeowners, Ruby went through the rigorous financial review process to ensure she was an eligible candidate. The eligibility criteria include demonstrating a housing need; showing an ability to make monthly mortgage payments; and, having the willingness to partner with Habitat Susquehanna.

Habitat homebuyers are required to contribute 250 “sweat equity” hours working on the construction of their homes. They participate in educational programs designed to strengthen the entire family to help ensure their success as new homeowners, such as taking mandatory financial literacy classes. They purchase their homes through an affordable mortgage and will continue to make monthly payments which in turn will go towards building more Habitat Susquehanna homes.

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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

2-2-2 / Virtual Dedication Ceremony Held
For 238 W Main St, ELKTON

Financial Literacy programs. For more information, call 410-638-4434 (Harford County) or 410-398-3399 (Cecil County), or visit www.habitatsusq.org.