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**Wall Raising for First of Seven Habitat Homes Planned in Havre de Grace**

*One detached home, three duplexes to occupy same lot*

BEL AIR, MD (December 12, 2018) – On a frigid December morning, sponsors, volunteers, city and state representatives, and Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna staff gathered alongside the homebuyer, Kathryn B., to raise the first of her new home’s walls. The celebration was especially notable in that it signified the start of the seven Habitat homes planned for a lot in Havre de Grace bordered by Revolution Street, Stokes Street and Freedom Lane. (Kathryn’s house will be the only detached home; in addition to her house, there will be three duplexes built on the lot.)

Representatives of one of the major sponsors, The Dresher Foundation, attended, as well as St. Margaret’s Parish, whose parishioners built the walls of the house beforehand at a recent “panel build.” City of Havre de Grace representatives also attended, along with a staff member representing U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen of Maryland. Havre de Grace’s coffee shop Java By the Bay donated coffee and pastries in a show of support for the local event.

“We are calling this project ‘Revolutionary Homeownership’ not only because of the bordering street’s name,” said Karen Blandford, Executive Director of Habitat Susquehanna, “but also because affordable homeownership for low-income families is a dramatic change in their lives.”

Kathryn learned about Habitat Susquehanna’s home ownership program after attending a financial literacy class hosted by the Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union (APGFCU). APGFCU, in partnership with Habitat Susquehanna, offers financial education seminars and workshops throughout the year. They cover a variety of financial topics and the seminars are free and open to the public.

As is the case with all approved Habitat applicants, Kathryn is required to contribute 250 “sweat equity” hours; take mandatory financial literacy classes; and, purchase her home through an affordable mortgage.

Once begun, the building process will take several months and require volunteers to come weekly, Wednesday through Saturday, until the build is complete.

“We’ll be looking for construction volunteers to help with framing, roofing, insulating, siding, drywall and painting,” said Brianne Young, Volunteer & Community Engagement Coordinator.

Interested volunteers can sign up on the Habitat Susquehanna website at: www.habitatsusq.org. For questions, Young can be reached at byoung@habitatsusq.org or 410-638-4434 x 4.

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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).