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**Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia (HFHP) & Council President Darrell Clarke Break
Ground on Five New Affordable Homes for Low-Income Partner Families**

- WHAT:** Groundbreaking of Hope Village, five new affordable homes in North Central Philadelphia
- WHEN:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015- 4:00 pm
- WHERE:** 1905 Turner Street, North Philadelphia
(Homes 1905-1917 Turner St.; near intersection of 19th St. & Cecil B. Moore Ave.)
- WHO:** Frank Monaghan, Executive Director HFHP; Council President Darrell Clarke, 5th District

May 26th, 2015 - Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia, with support of City Council President Darrell Clarke, will break ground on HOPE Village, five new affordable homes to be built in partnership with low-income families. The new houses will be built to ENERGY STAR standards of green construction. Funding and support comes in the form of grants, sponsorship, and gifts-in-kind of labor and materials from other local companies and individuals. These five new houses align with the community revitalization goals of the Sharswood/Blumburg Choice Neighborhoods Transformation Plan. The new homes complement the other 79 that Habitat Philadelphia has built and rehabbed in North Central Philadelphia, and the 183 built city-wide since its founding in 1985.

For some, home is not just a place- it is also a process. Habitat partner families know this. Homes are purchased from Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia with a 30 year, zero-interest mortgage. Each partner family also provides 350 hours of sweat equity—helping to build their *and* other partner families' homes. Construction will begin on all five homes in June. With the anticipated engagement of over 1,000 construction industry and general volunteers—contributing over 24,000 volunteer hours—five families will purchase and move into these homes by March 2016, adding to an already vibrant community.

“We are excited to break ground in North Philadelphia and work closely with the existing community,

supporters and our partner families towards completing construction on these five homes in a community where we have built so much,” says Frank Monaghan, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia. “It is inspiring to see individuals, city agencies, companies and foundation supporters come together to achieve a shared vision. We thank all those supporters that will eventually make ‘home’ a reality for the hardworking families that will own these houses.”

One of the five homes in HOPE Village is the Pope Francis House, funded and built in honor of the inspirational leader of the Roman Catholic Church. An anonymous donor provided a gift of \$60,000 to sponsor the house in recognition of Pope Francis’ commitment to social justice, which has reinvigorated the Catholic Church and inspired people of all stripes to focus on service.

About Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia

An affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International—the largest non-profit homebuilder worldwide—**Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia** (habitatphiladelphia.org) transforms lives and our City by building quality homes in partnership with families in need and by uniting all Philadelphians around the cause of affordable housing. Founded in 1985, Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia has completed 183 homes to date. Partner families are required to contribute 350 hours of “sweat equity” in building their houses and others in order to qualify for the no-interest mortgage provided by Habitat.

Since spring of 2010 Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia has also strategically partnered with over 216 families offering weatherization, repairs and stabilization services to keep homes safe, healthy and efficient- and does so by utilizing green and sustainable practices.

Habitat Philadelphia also operates a home improvement store called ReStore to fund projects. The ReStore sells new and gently used home goods, furniture and building materials. All proceeds support new construction and repairs for more low-income families in Philadelphia. The ReStore provides free donation pick-ups and all items are tax-deductible.

Habitat for Humanity Philadelphia is committed to building green, energy-efficient homes to ensure healthy indoor air quality, generate low utility costs and reduce our homes’ drain on the local power grid. With over 3000 volunteers annually, we believe we are all part of the solution to achieve affordable housing, and we welcome anyone willing to swing a hammer to help make affordable homes a reality.