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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat for Humanity Completes Construction on Last Rehabbed House in Buffalo, Dedicates Home to Family

Buffalo, New York (September 30, 2017) — Habitat for Humanity Buffalo will dedicate a rehabbed home to the Kahsay family on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. The house, located at 320 Florida Street in Buffalo, is the 299th house dedicated by Habitat Buffalo, and is the last rehabbed home in the organization's inventory.

Due to rising property values in the City of Buffalo, Habitat Buffalo is having difficulty acquiring properties that can be rehabbed. Construction on the house that will be dedicated on Saturday was started in 2016; the organization has not begun any new rehab work in 2017.

The Kahsay family will purchase the house at 320 Florida Street through Habitat Buffalo's Homebuyer Program. Yoseph Kahsay entered Habitat Buffalo's program in December 2013, and, along with his father and brother, have worked 525 "sweat equity hours" (a term used to describe the work completed by future homeowners towards the construction of their home). The family will move into the house in October, and will repay an interest-free, 30-year mortgage.

"This is a bittersweet dedication for us," said Teresa Bianchi, Executive Director of Habitat Buffalo. "We are thrilled for the Kahsay family to become homeowners, but it's a little sad to complete this house and not know when we will have another beautiful home to rehab. Rehabbing houses has been a big part of our organization."

Nearly two-thirds of all Habitat Buffalo houses have been rehabbed over the past 30 years. The organization is working with community partners and the City of Buffalo to find new ways to acquire houses that can be rehabbed. In the meantime, Habitat Buffalo will be constructing new houses. Due to the added expense of building new houses, only eight homes are planned over the next year (as opposed to the 12-15 that are typically built in a year).

Saturday's dedication will be attended by the new homeowners, their family, Habitat Buffalo staff, and volunteers. Those interested in donating a home to Habitat Buffalo should contact the Habitat office at 716.204.0740.

Habitat for Humanity Buffalo works to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through homeownership. Habitat Buffalo was established by a group of dedicated volunteers, concerned about the lack of affordable homes in the City of Buffalo. Seeking to create homeownership opportunities for low income families, Habitat Buffalo subsidizes the cost of homes through donations (both, monetary and materials) and volunteer labor. Families that purchase homes through our program are required to first contribute 500 hours of "sweat equity", working alongside community volunteers to construct their home and the houses of other families in the program. Once approved, families purchase their homes from Habitat Buffalo by paying a low-interest, affordable monthly mortgage. For more information, visit www.habitatbuffalo.org.