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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat Buffalo Dedicates 300th House

Buffalo, New York (January 20, 2018) — Habitat for Humanity Buffalo will dedicate a new home to the Hissu family on Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. The house is located at 42 Wende Street in Buffalo, and is Habitat Buffalo's 300th house since the organization was founded in 1985. The home will be dedicated in honor of Habitat's 25-year partnership with Valu Home Centers.

The new homeowner, Awal Hissu, has been in Habitat Buffalo's home buying program since 2015. He and his young daughter will move into their new home this month. Awal has contributed 500 hours of "sweat equity", a term used to describe the work completed by future homeowners towards the construction of their home, and will repay an interest-free, 30-year mortgage.

Habitat Buffalo broke ground on 42 Wende Street in April 2017. Volunteers have contributed more than 6,000 hours towards the construction of this house. Volunteers, Habitat staff, and supporters will be on hand to celebrate the completion of the project.

"We are truly grateful to all of the people who have made this house possible," said Teresa Bianchi, Executive Director of Habitat Buffalo. "We've had such a cross-section of volunteers working on this site over the last nine months. Some people are brand new and have never been on a construction site before, and some have been with us since our very first house. This wouldn't be possible without them."

Habitat Buffalo is dedicating the 300th house in honor of the organization's 25-year partnership with Valu Home Centers. In 1993 Valu began partnering with Habitat Buffalo, promoting an annual fundraiser in stores across the Western New York region. Today each Valu store raises money in support of the closest Habitat for Humanity affiliate, benefiting 17 Habitat for Humanity locations across New York and Pennsylvania. In total, Valu has raised more than \$3.7 million dollars for Habitat for Humanity affiliates.

Saturday's dedication will be attended by the new homeowners, their family and friends, Habitat Buffalo staff, volunteers, and the organization's founder, as well as representatives from Valu Home Centers. A tour of the house will begin immediately following the dedication.

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.