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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Habitat Buffalo and Erie 1 BOCES Build a Home for a Local Family, Dedicated in Time for Thanksgiving**

**Buffalo, New York** (November 18, 2017) — Habitat for Humanity Buffalo will dedicate a new home to the Mahangayiko family on Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The house is located at 84 Maryland Street in Buffalo, and was built in collaboration with Erie 1 BOCES Potter Career and Technical Center.

The new homeowners are Joseph Mahangayiko (husband) and Bernadette Uzamushaka (wife), and their seven children. The family came to America seven years ago from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and entered Habitat Buffalo's Homebuyer Program in July 2012. The family has completed 500 "sweat equity hours", a term used to describe the work completed by future homeowners towards the construction of their home. Finishing touches to the house will be completed by the end of November. The family will move into the house in early December, and will repay an interest-free, 30-year mortgage.

"We are excited to have completed this house in time for the holidays," said Teresa Bianchi, Executive Director of Habitat Buffalo. "We truly could not have done this without the Mahangayiko family, our volunteers, and the students at Erie 1 BOCES."

This house was built through a partnership between Erie 1 BOCES Potter Career and Technical Center and Habitat Buffalo. Students in BOCES's program built the home in two sections during the 2016-2017 school year. The house was transported to the foundation in August, and cranes set the pieces in place. Habitat Buffalo volunteers worked quickly to finish the house in time for the holiday season.

Saturday's dedication will be attended by the new homeowners, their family, Habitat Buffalo staff, and volunteers. Those interested in volunteering to help Habitat Buffalo build another home 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](http://www.habitatbuffalo.org).***