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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat for Humanity to Dedicate Two Homes in the City of Buffalo

Buffalo, New York (March 10, 2018) — Habitat for Humanity Buffalo will celebrate the dedication of two new houses in the City of Buffalo on Saturday, March 10, 2018 in two ceremonies, at 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. The houses are located at 461 Busti Avenue and 312 Trenton Avenue respectively.

The house located at 461 Busti Avenue (ceremony at 10:00 a.m.) will be dedicated to the Mukasakindi Family. Helen Mukasakindi and her children came to Buffalo from Rwanda in 2004, fleeing civil war and persecution from their government. Helen was a nurse for the United Nations before moving to America with her daughters Claire and Clementine, and her son, Clement. Helen's oldest daughter, Clarissa, moved to Buffalo in 2017 and will be living with her family in their new home. The Mukasakindi Family has been in Habitat's Homebuyer Program for nearly 10 years, but Helen withdrew her application for several years while her son was deployed serving the U.S. Marine Corps.

"This home is for my children," said Helen Mukasakindi while describing her happiness at owning a home. "I am just passing through."

The house located at 312 Trenton Avenue (ceremony at 12:00 p.m.) was built in partnership with the Construction Exchange and students from McKinley High School. The house was constructed as part of a vocational training program, and was shipped and craned onto a pre-poured foundation. The house will be dedicated to the Tossah Family. Denise Tossah and her parents moved to America from Togo in 1999 to build a better life. After her father was in an accident, Denise became the primary bread-winner for the family. She has been in Habitat Buffalo's Homebuyer Program since 2016.

"Families in our Homebuyer Program are truly dedicated to improving their situation," said Teresa Bianchi, Executive Director of Habitat Buffalo. "These homeowners work full-time, care for their children, and complete 500 hours of 'sweat equity' towards the construction of their homes. We are excited to celebrate their huge accomplishment."

Saturday's ceremonies will be attended by the new homeowners and their families, Habitat Buffalo staff and volunteers, and representatives from Bank of America, who sponsored the construction at 312 Trenton Avenue. To volunteer with Habitat or to make a donation, visit www.habitatbuffalo.org.

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.