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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat Buffalo Dedicates Home to Local Family

Buffalo, New York (August 25, 2018) — Habitat for Humanity Buffalo will dedicate a new home to the Garrett family on Saturday, August 25, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. The house is located at 41 Kerns Avenue in Buffalo.

The home will be dedicated to Tamara Garrett, and her four children – a 15-year-old daughter, a 3-year-old daughter, and twin 12-year-old sons. Ms. Garrett is from Utica, NY, and moved to Buffalo in the early 1990's to be with her mother and grandmother. She has been in Habitat Buffalo's Homebuyer Program for five years, and has worked 500 hours of "sweat equity" in order to purchase her house. Her "sweat equity" hours were completed while working full-time as a Certified Nursing Assistant.

"It has been great learning to do things on my own," said Ms. Garrett of her time working on Habitat Buffalo's construction sites. "I like working on the houses, and knowing that I'm working to help others in need."

To purchase a Habitat Buffalo house, Ms. Garrett completed "sweat equity", worked to improve her finances, and attended a variety of classes to prepare for homeownership, including a financial literacy class, a first-time homebuyer class, and a budgeting class. Ms. Garrett will move into her home before the end of 2018, and will repay an interest-free, 30-year mortgage.

Ms. Garrett is a second-generation Habitat Homeowner. Her mother, Cheryl Brooks, purchased a house from Habitat Buffalo in 2002 and recently made her final mortgage payment.

"Habitat homes have a generational impact," said Teresa Bianchi, Executive Director of Habitat Buffalo. "Each generation is able to do better than the last because of the stability that is inherently provided by a safe, decent home."

Saturday's dedication will be attended by the new homeowners, their family, Habitat Buffalo staff, and Habitat volunteers. Ms. Bianchi will be available for interviews; the Garrett family will be available for off-camera interviews only.

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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.