

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HABITAT ANNOUNCES PARTNER FAMILY FOR TWO FALLS VILLAGE HABITAT HOMES WITH A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

FALLS VILLAGE, CT June 15, 2016. Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut (Habitat) is pleased to announce the acceptance of two new partner families for existing Habitat homes located on Sand Rd and River Rd in Falls Village.

The mission of Habitat's Northwest Connecticut affiliate is to facilitate ownership of simple, but decent and affordable homes for local workforce families. "We're not just about bricks and mortar, hammer and nails," said Dawn Whalen, Executive Director of Habitat's Northwest Connecticut affiliate. "We're really all about making people's dreams come true. These two homes are providing an opportunity for two local families who never thought they could afford to own a home of their own."

Habitat is proud to announce that we have partnered with Chris Anderson and Carly Brazee to purchase the home located at 40 River Rd. Chea LaMedica is the selected Habitat partner for the home at 86 Sand Rd. Chris owns a landscaping business and Carly works for Noble Horizons. Chea is a para-professional teacher in the North Canaan school system; she has two children. Both families have demonstrated their commitment to community and the Habitat program by contributing many sweat equity hours at our build site in Sharon as well as at our store in Canaan.

Habitat's proven formula, which keeps costs affordable, relies on individual and corporate donors who provide money and materials, and partner families who are required to contribute sweat equity to build or renovate their homes. But most importantly, it relies on community volunteers who provide most of the labor.

Tracy Atwood, Habitat's president says, "People feel great when they help build or rehab a home for a deserving family."

Although any kind of volunteer help is welcome, people with building skills are always welcome. Habitat is always looking for tradesmen, with their own licenses, to work with Habitat on aspects of construction that cannot be performed by unskilled volunteer labor. Some examples include plumbing, roofing, and mechanical.

In addition, Habitat has a unique opportunity for a part time paid Site Supervisor. Their Site Supervisors are responsible for all aspects of the project including coordinating with any outside contractors. What makes this job unique is the Site Supervisors must have the ability to lead, motivate and manage the unskilled volunteers to make each *Saturday Volunteer Build Day* a success.

Habitat is also calling upon our community of businesses, organizations, churches, civic or youth groups and schools to consider getting a group together to volunteer for a *Saturday Volunteer Build Day*. No building skills are required, but an eagerness to work together, have fun and help these two families rehab their homes is a definite must!

To volunteer services on any given Saturday, to schedule a *Saturday Volunteer Build Day*, or to find out more information about the need for skilled tradesmen and/or their paid Site Supervisor position, please contact Dawn Whalen **now** at (860) 435-4747 or dawnwhalen@habitatnwct.org.

Please join the Anderson/Brazee and LaMedica families and Habitat in celebrating their acceptance into our program, a symbol for building stronger communities and a vehicle for providing affordable homes which are so needed in this area.

ABOUT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF NORTHWEST CT:

Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut is a locally run affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. We serve the six-town area of Canaan/Falls Village, Cornwall, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon. Volunteers provide most of the labor, and individual and corporate donors provide money and materials to build Habitat houses. Partner families are required to work 400 hundred hours - "sweat equity" - in building their own home and the home of others. The houses are sold to the partner families with a no interest loan. The mortgage

payments go into a revolving fund used to help build more houses. Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut promotes home ownership by building houses in partnership with residents in need of adequate housing. In 2015, our affiliate dedicated its eleventh home located in North Canaan. Construction is underway on the affiliate's 12th home in Sharon on Low Rd, a project in collaboration with the Sharon Housing Trust. A Capital Campaign, to celebrate the affiliate's 25th Anniversary, is also underway – the goal is to raise \$100,000 by 2017 for an “anniversary build” on one of three available building lots owned by Habitat.