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## Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County receives grant from Wells Fargo to expand access to affordable homes in Orlando

**ORLANDO, Fla. (Oct. 25, 2024)** – The Wells Fargo Foundation has awarded a grant to <u>Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County</u> to help bring safe, affordable housing options to the Central Florida community. Habitat Orlando & Osceola is one of more than 179 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates awarded grant funding nationwide through the 2024 Wells Fargo Builds program to increase access to affordable homes across the country.

The grant to Habitat Orlando & Osceola, along with the support of Wells Fargo volunteers, will help build an energy-efficient Habitat home with an affordable mortgage for a local family in Orlando's Holden Heights community on Oct. 25. Wells Fargo volunteers contributed by laying mulch and planting drought-tolerant trees and plants on the property of a Habitat home under construction.

"As Central Florida confronts the affordable housing crisis, we could not achieve our mission without the support from partners such as Wells Fargo," said Catherine Steck McManus, Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County's president & CEO. "The median sale price for an entry level home has more than doubled in the past 10 years. Nine out of 10 single wage earners making the median wage in healthcare, hospitality or education can't afford the median price of an entry-level home in Central Florida. That's why directly supporting members of our community to purchase affordable homes is one of the ways Habitat Orlando & Osceola continues to Face The Housing Crisis."

"We are incredibly proud to be part of this project alongside Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County," said Kate Wilson, Senior Vice President, Community Relations at Wells Fargo. This project is part of Wells Fargo's national "Welcome Home" initiative, which focuses on housing affordability, one of the company's key philanthropic priorities. Wells Fargo employee's participation is an example of their commitment as the "Bank of Doing." Beyond volunteerism, Wells Fargo has also invested in philanthropic resources to expand affordable housing in Central Florida and support families in achieving homeownership and increasing awareness on building generational wealth."

This funding is part of a \$6.375 million donation to Habitat for Humanity International through the 2024 <u>Wells Fargo Builds</u> program to help support more than 290 families in communities nationwide.

## About Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County

Driven by a vision that everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to live, Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County builds and repairs homes, educates and strengthens communities. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat Orlando & Osceola to build or improve places to call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Working together by donating, volunteering or becoming an advocate, everyone can help members of our community live in safe, affordable homes. Founded in 1986, Habitat Orlando & Osceola has built, rehabbed, or repaired over 800 homes throughout Central Florida. The nonprofit has achieved recognition as one of the 40 "top producers" out of over 1,100 affiliates working in communities throughout the United States and in more than 70 countries. To learn more, visit HabitatOrlando.org.

## **About Wells Fargo**

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