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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County hosts Spanish version of First-Time Homebuyer Workshop every month**

**ORLANDO, Fla. (Sept. 8, 2024)** – [Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County](#) is hosting a monthly free First-Time Homebuyer Workshop in Spanish for those looking to take the first step toward homeownership on Oct. 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s headquarters located at 4116 Silver Star Road, Orlando. The nonprofit expanded the public service to include workshops presented in Spanish through a grant from Orange County Government. The workshop covers essential topics including credit, down payment assistance programs, property titles, working with real estate agents and homeowners’ insurance.

Approximately 30% of the Hispanic or Latino population in Central Florida speaks English “less than very well.” And while homeownership rates for minority populations across America have made steady gains in recent years, a large homeownership gap persists. In Central Florida, 53% of the Hispanic or Latino population own their home, compared to 71% of the white, non-Hispanic or non-Latino population.

“We are thrilled to offer this program and educate more potential homebuyers on all the essential topics to homeownership,” Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County President and CEO Catherine Steck McManus said. “Language should not prevent someone from reaching their homeownership goals. Our program exists to ensure homeowners are successful at both home buying and maintenance, so families can stay in their homes.”

Participants must be 18 years or older to attend and will receive a first-time homebuyer certificate, which is a prerequisite for qualifying for Orange County’s and other downpayment assistance programs. This class is open to everyone – you don’t need to be a Habitat homebuyer. The First-Time Homebuyer Workshops are one of the ways Habitat Orlando & Osceola is facing the affordable housing crisis in Central Florida.

“I’m pleased to see Habitat Orlando & Osceola launch a Spanish version of their First-Time Homebuyer Workshop,” said Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings. “This initiative not only expands accessibility but also strengthens our community by empowering more families with the knowledge and tools to achieve their dream of homeownership.”

To register for the Oct. 5 workshop, click [here](#). To register for other First-Time Homebuyer Workshops taught in Spanish or English or Habitat U education courses, visit [habitorlandoosceola.eventbrite.com](http://habitorlandoosceola.eventbrite.com).

### **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 strengthens communities by building and repairing homes, and counseling and educating homeowners and the public. Families and individuals partner with Habitat Orlando & Osceola to purchase homes with affordable mortgages. Through Face the Housing Crisis™ and Cornerstone Housing™ Framework, Habitat Orlando & Osceola is working with community partners to address the wicked problem of the affordable housing crisis in Central Florida and its detrimental effects on community priorities. Founded in 1986, Habitat Orlando & Osceola has built, rehabbed or repaired over 900 homes throughout Central Florida. The nonprofit has achieved recognition as one of the 40 “top producers” out of over 1,100 Habitat for Humanity International affiliates working in communities throughout the U.S. and is a HUD-certified local Housing Counseling Agency. To learn more, visit [HabitatOrlando.org](http://HabitatOrlando.org).

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