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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County and State Farm team up to help teens prepare for future disasters

ORLANDO, Fla. (March. 18, 2025) – More than two dozen teenagers attended Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County’s Youth Summit on Saturday, March 15, where they learned the basics of financial literacy and the value of community engagement as well as critical disaster preparedness information thanks to a partnership with State Farm.

The free event was Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s third Youth Summit, which is taught by Habitat Orlando & Osceola staff as well as expert community partners. The five-hour seminars have now educated more than 120 high students between the ages of 14 and 19 on everything from how to balance a budget to how local, state and federal governments function.

Saturday’s event featured a special lunch-and-learn segment presented by State Farm agent Karen Bandon focused on teaching students how to create personal disaster preparedness plans and the role insurance plays in disaster scenarios.

“At Habitat Orlando & Osceola, we are working to increase the resiliency of our community, not only through building stable and affordable homes, but by empowering homeowners and their families with the knowledge they need to prepare for the future’s ups and downs,” says Catherine Steck McManus, president and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County. “Living in an area often impacted by hurricanes and severe weather, it’s important to bolster even our younger community members with the skills and confidence they need to react in disaster situations.”

The youth-focused disaster preparedness segment was made possible by a grant from State Farm to support long-term disaster recovery efforts following the destruction caused by Hurricane Ian in 2022. State Farm has supported Habitat for Humanity International’s youth initiatives, which have engaged more than 800,000 youth in 300 communities across the country, since 2007.

“It is important for everyone, including teenagers, to know how to stay safe when disaster strikes,” says State Farm agent Karen Bandon. “Having a disaster preparedness plan gives teens the knowledge and skills to take charge in emergencies, identify potential risks and encourage safety strategies.”

The remainder of grant funding provided by State Farm will go toward Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s new construction efforts, building stable, affordable housing in Central Florida. State

Farm is proud to partner with Habitat for Humanity to support the building of efficient, resilient housing in disaster-prone communities across the U.S.

For high-resolution visuals of the Youth Summit, [click here](#).

About Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County

Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County is driven by a vision where everyone has an affordable place to call home, a stable foundation that fosters health, opportunity, and progress for all. Habitat Orlando & Osceola pioneers innovative housing solutions, empowers individuals through knowledge, and transforms communities by addressing the root causes of the housing crisis. Founded in 1986, Habitat Orlando & Osceola has built, rehabbed or repaired over 900 homes throughout Central Florida. Through home builds, repairs, housing counseling, financial education classes, and other programming, Habitat Orlando & Osceola serves more than 1,500 people each year. 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 United States and in more than 70 countries. To learn more, visit HabitatOrlando.org.

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