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## FOR IMMEADIATE RELEASE

## Habitat Orlando & Osceola and Williams Company kick off 6th annual Home for the Holidays event

(ORLANDO, Fla.) Aug. 15, 2025 – <u>Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County</u> and local construction company <u>Williams Company</u> broke ground Friday morning on a home that will be purchased with an affordable mortgage by a local family just in time for the holiday season as part of the sixth annual Home for the Holidays event.

"Affordable and stable housing is not just about shelter—it's the foundation for thriving individuals, families, and communities. Home is where health is nurtured, education is strengthened, opportunities are unlocked, and, especially during the holiday season, a place where lifetime memories are made," said Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County President & CEO Catherine Steck McManus. "We're grateful to partner with Williams Company to create a foundation for those festive memories for another local family."

Over the next six weeks, Williams Company, along with their subcontractors and vendors, will donate the time, labor, and materials to build a Habitat home in Orange County's Holden Heights neighborhood. A local family will purchase the completed home in December.

"We are proud to be a part of Habitat Orlando & Osceola's mission for the last six years and exemplify the essence of people coming together to support one another, especially during the holidays," said Williams Company Vice President of Operations Matt Olberding.

Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings joined Habitat Orlando & Osceola at Friday's groundbreaking event to celebrate the ongoing work to increase affordable housing options in Orange County. In addition to donating 13 parcels of land in Holden Heights since 2021 and providing downpayment assistance to Habitat homebuyers, the county partners with Habitat Orlando & Osceola on education initiatives including the Orange County Financial Empowerment Center and First-time Homebuyer Workshops to help empower residents to take control of their finances and get prepared for homeownership.

"Each Habitat home built in our community provides a stable, affordable place for an Orange County family to call home, a foundation that fosters health, opportunity, and long-term progress," Demings said. "We are excited to continue to watch that progress unfold in Holden Heights and beyond."

This year marks the sixth consecutive year of partnership between Williams Company and Habitat Orlando & Osceola, and this year's home will be the seventh one built by Williams Company and their subcontractors and vendors as part of the Home for the Holidays event.

Since 2022, Habitat Orlando & Osceola has built 26 homes in Holden Heights – bringing the total to more than 60 homes constructed by Habitat in the neighborhood.

Learn more about Home for the Holidays, our builder and past homeowners here.

For images from today's groundbreaking ceremony, <u>click here</u>. The Home for the Holidays event will conclude with a home dedication ceremony in December.

## 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.

## **About Williams Company**

Williams Company is a construction management firm with over 105 years of experience building across the Southeastern United States. Since opening its doors in 1920, the company has remained true to its founding promise: to deliver the highest quality construction on every project, on-time, and with incredible customer service. Williams Company specializes in education, retail, industrial, cold storage and multi-family projects and is currently licensed in 14 states from Texas to Maryland. As an employee-owned firm, its team takes great pride in their work — a sense of ownership that is reflected in their commitment, integrity, and attention to detail. With deep roots in Central Florida, the company leads with purpose by investing time, resources, and passion into the communities it helps shape. Learn more at williamsco.com

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