**Builders Blitz 2020**

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Local Builders Join Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County in Builders Blitz**

*6 Builders will Construct 6 New Affordable Homes in 5 Days, February 3-8, 2020*

**ORLANDO, Fla. (January 29, 2020**) – [Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County](http://www.habitatorlandoosceola.org/) is partnering with six (6) builders to build six (6) new affordable homes for future Habitat homeowners in just five (5) days in Silver Pines Pointe in Orlando. The Builders Blitz will be held next week starting with the kick-off Monday, February 3, at 7 a.m. and will conclude on Saturday, February 8, at 10 a.m. with a celebratory home dedication ceremony for the six new homeowners. In addition, the nonprofit will celebrate their Cornerstone Guild giving society members at a breakfast on the build site on Thursday, February 6, 7:30-9:30 am. Attendees may tour the homes under construction following the program. The build site is located at Silver Pines Pointe in the Pine Hills area of Orlando, 1417 Ridge Point Drive.

Professional builders and subcontractors donate the necessary building materials, supplies and hours of labor for the weeklong event to help change the lives of six families who will be calling Silver Pines Pointe home. Participating builders include HGR Construction, Jack Jennings and Sons, K. Hovnanian Homes, Park Square Homes, Pulte Homes, and Walker & Company.

Silver Pines Pointe is Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s fourth planned community which will feature 58 homes upon

its completion next year. The single-family homes will range from three to four bedrooms, are green-certified and

will include energy efficient appliances and simple, landscaped yards.

“To pull off the amazing feat of building six homes in five days requires the partnership of generous builders, the engagement of all their subcontractors, significant support from Orange County, and months of planning and preparation,” said Catherine Steck McManus, President and CEO of Habitat Orlando & Osceola. “Building industry professionals understand the importance and impact of having a safe, affordable home. When builders provide the labor, funding and materials, it allows Habitat Orlando & Osceola to serve even more homeowners. We are grateful for everyone’s generosity in making this week a reality.”

# Meet the Builders Blitz Homeowners

**Carol**

“Habitat came along and, I think, rescued me,” Carol says. “Rent keeps going up. Before long I’d need two or three jobs just for an apartment.” Carol became a loyal Habitat volunteer through her workplace, Orlando Health. She loved it and became a regular fixture on our build site. When she realized she could apply herself, and then was approved, her world changed. “The day they called me, I just boohooed!” Carol is a devoted volunteer and even became a Habitat volunteer crew leader. As for owning her home, “I’ve been envisioning myself sitting on the porch just catching the breeze and having a vegetable garden out back and flowers out front.”

**Eliezer & Yosmarily**

Yosmarily, who is wheelchair-bound, along with her husband, Eliezer, and their 5-year-old daughter, Yosmelí, could only afford to live in a one-bedroom apartment in desperate need of repairs and lacking in accommodations to meet her special needs. Yosmarily and Eliezer found their way to Habitat in hopes of purchasing a home to accommodate their income and special needs. Yosmarily looks forward to a home she can fully utilize, such as cooking meals for the family. As apartment rents continue to increase, paying a mortgage means paying toward something they own.

**Joelle**

The path to homeownership has been an emotional journey for this single mom of two. As she juggled work, parenthood and her homeownership path, she has regularly wondered, “Can I set one more thing on my plate?” Her two young daughters motivate her. “I want to give them a place of their own. They deserve that as children.” Owning her own home will give her daughters a blueprint of sorts. “It’s a personal accomplishment as a woman to be able to do things for myself and by myself,” said Joelle. “I feel like it’s going to show them that it’s doable. Anything is possible. If that’s what they want, they can achieve it.”

**Juliet**

Juliet works two jobs in the same building, as a housekeeper and a home health aide nurse to make ends meet. Since leaving an abusive relationship, Juliet has lived with 7-year-old daughter, Juliana, and 1-year-old Romeo in one bedroom in her parents’ home. While grateful for her parents’ support, living with two young children in one room has been crowded. She is also aware of the lifestyle changes that her parents have made to allow them to live there. A friend told Juliet about Habitat Orlando & Osceola’s homeownership program. Through Habitat Orlando & Osceola, she’ll be able to purchase an affordable home. The most exciting part of the homeownership journey is still to come -- “Watching my kids grow into a home or our own,” she says with a big smile. She can’t wait to see Juliana and Romeo have rooms of their own and is already planning how to decorate. (Juliana is currently deciding whether she wants a bedroom themed with “Pretty flowers” or Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.)

**Modline**

Modline, who works full time as a family advocate, and her 8-year-old daughter, Daniella, spent the last year searching for a place to live. They ended up in a one-bedroom apartment that costs too much for her income. “I didn’t know where I was going to live. Habitat’s homeownership program feels like a chance for stability,” Modline said. Most of all, Modline hopes her own journey will inspire a similar work ethic in Daniella. “My daughter is my motivation through this,” Modline said. “On weekends, she wakes me up to ask if I’m going to complete my sweat equity hours. I’m hoping that she will remember the hard work and sacrifice I made to get our house.”

**Wanda**

Future homeowner Wanda’s belief that “anything you set your mind to, you can do it,” has persisted throughout her life. Despite dropping out of high school in her teens, Wanda went on to earn not only her GED, but also her bachelor’s degree in education. The third-grade teacher wants her sons, 13-year-old Nathan and 10-year-old Jashun, to have the sense of homeownership and neighborhood she experienced growing up. Nathan is excited to mow his new home’s lawn, while Jashun is hopeful for some new friends in the neighborhood. The family rented for years before having to leave their last rental after the property foreclosed. They’ve been living in Wanda’s mother’s home recently. “My ultimate goal was that I would never move again unless I’m moving into my own house,” Wanda said.

# About Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County

Driven by a vision that everyone deserves a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity Greater Orlando & Osceola County builds affordable housing, revitalizes neighborhoods and strengthens communities. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat Orlando & Osceola to build or improve a place they call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Working together by providing financial support, volunteering or becoming an advocate, everyone can help advance access to safe, decent and affordable homes. Help us make the [#CostofHome](https://habitatorlandoosceola.org/cost-of-home/) something we *all* can afford.

Habitat Orlando & Osceola is one of Habitat for Humanity International’s affiliates working in nearly 1,400 communities throughout the United States and in more than 70 counties. To learn more, visit [habitatorlandoosceola.org,](http://www.habitatorlandoosceola.org/) like us on [Facebook/habitatorlandoosceola](http://www.facebook.com/habitatorlandoosceola) and follow us on Twitter@HabitatOrlOsc.

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