



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio mourns the death of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter**

Columbus, OH (12/30/2024)— Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio joins the world in mourning the death of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and joins observances around the world to remember his life of service. He and Rosalynn Carter have served as Habitat for Humanity's most famous volunteers over the 35 years they helped to build affordable housing with the organization.

"President Carter's three-plus decades of volunteering helped so many families globally, and so his legacy of serving others will live on for many years. All of us at Habitat MidOhio are saddened to learn of his passing, and his absence is deeply felt in the international Habitat for Humanity community. Our prayers of both gratitude for his service and sympathy to the Carter family go out at this time." -Brandi AL-Issa, Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio, Pres. & CEO

President Carter visited the MidOhio affiliate many times over the years and it always made a huge impact on our volunteers and partner families. Additionally, many volunteers and staff members have participated in a Jimmy Carter Work Project. One of our long-time volunteers, Ben, shared how reading the Carter's book, *"Everything to Gain: Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life,"* and its message of encouraging people to remain active after their formal retirement and to try to make a positive difference, and their description of Habitat for Humanity sparked him to start volunteering. That was over 29 years ago and he's still a regular volunteer on our job sites! If not for President's Carter passion for Habitat for Humanity and sharing our mission of bringing people together to INSPIRE hope, BUILD homes, EMPOWER families, and DEVELOP communities, our affiliate and our city would look very different.

"We are deeply saddened by President Carter's passing, and our prayers are with Mrs. Carter and the rest of the Carter family," said Jonathan Reckford, CEO of Habitat for Humanity International. "President and Mrs. Carter began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity near their home in southwest Georgia, soon bringing worldwide attention to the need for decent and affordable housing. We are grateful for the incredible impact the Carters have had on Habitat and on the families who have benefited from their shining example. The Carters put Habitat for Humanity on the map, and their legacy will live on in every family we serve around the world."

After leaving the White House, the Carters sought out meaningful ways to continue their commitment to social justice and basic human rights. They first volunteered with Habitat for

Humanity in Americus, Georgia, near their home of Plains, in March 1984. Later that same year, the Carters joined Habitat volunteers in New York City's Lower East Side to renovate an abandoned building in partnership with families in need of affordable housing. That trip marked Habitat for Humanity's first Jimmy Carter Work Project (later renamed the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project). Each year since then, the Carters have volunteered with Habitat to build or improve houses alongside homeowners in communities across the United States and around the world. President Carter also served as a member of the organization's board of directors from 1984-1987.

"I think every human being has within himself or herself a desire to reach out to others and to share some of our blessings with those who are in need," President Carter has said. "What's opened up that avenue for me and my wife and hundreds and thousands of others is Habitat for Humanity. It makes it easy for us to reach out and work side by side with the homeowner who's never had a decent house, perhaps. I haven't been on a Habitat project that I wasn't thrilled and inspired, and wept."

Inspiring millions over the last three decades, President and Mrs. Carter have worked alongside more than 104,000 volunteers across the U.S. and in 14 countries to build, renovate and repair 4,390 homes. In 2016, Habitat named President and Mrs. Carter as the inaugural Habitat Humanitarians for their extraordinary dedication to service in alignment with Habitat's vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.

Habitat for Humanity will be celebrating President Carter's life of service with local observances. To learn more or to share a tribute, visit [habitat.org](http://habitat.org).

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#### About Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio

Affordable, decent housing is one of our most basic human needs, yet it is in alarmingly short supply in our very own neighborhoods and throughout the world. A decent place to call home creates stability, launching families onto a positive trajectory of generational change that includes hope, improved health, and a better quality of life. Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio has spent more than 37 years bringing the dream of homeownership to families in need. Over the course of its history, Habitat MidOhio has rekindled hope for more than 1,000 families through new home construction, rehabs, and home repairs.

***For more information, please visit [www.HabitatMidOhio.org](http://www.HabitatMidOhio.org).***

#### About Habitat for Humanity

Driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity began in 1976 as a grassroots effort on a community farm in southern Georgia. The Christian housing organization has since grown to become a leading global nonprofit working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in more than 70 countries. Families and individuals in need of a hand up partner with Habitat for Humanity to build or improve a place they can call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable

housing, everyone can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, visit [habitat.org](http://habitat.org).