



Every one of us deserves a decent, affordable place to call home.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Habitat for Humanity tithing efforts build homes in Poland, now take on new meaning for refugees

Canton, Ohio, March 3, 2022 — As a grassroots Christian housing ministry, Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio tithes 10% of all unrestricted funds, sending financial resources to support Habitat housing efforts in Bangladesh, Poland, and Lesotho in Southern Africa. As one of Habitat's long-standing tithe partners, the work in Poland is especially focused on housing solutions for at-risk populations including elderly or disabled people and young adults who are aging out of the foster care system. While that work continues, the focus has expanded to offering tangible support for Ukrainian refugees who are fleeing to Poland during war.

Now, as Ukrainian families leave their war-torn homes and seek refuge in Poland, the local Habitat's tithe is helping families secure temporary housing when they need it most. "Years ago, when we added our tithe to the home-building work in Poland, no one could have imaged that a day like this would come," said Beth Lechner, Habitat's CEO. "Our hearts are hurting for the people of Ukraine, and it reminds me of Matthew 25:35 — 'For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home.' We believe that God put us right here to do what we can to help refugees breathe a breath of hope as they flee their homes and need a decent place to rest more than ever."

While Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio has built nearly 600 homes locally since 1988, the organization's tithing has also helped provide decent, affordable housing for hundreds of families around the world. "We are all so grateful for Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio's 34 years of support," said Susan Weltner Yow, director of affiliate tithe and global engagement at Habitat for Humanity International. "And because of their partnership with Habitat for Humanity Poland over the years, the Polish organization is positioned to play a critical role in responding to the unfolding crisis in Ukraine."

As Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio directs its tithe to the Habitat for Humanity Poland Foundation, the organization invites everyone to donate and support the work in Poland. Habitat will send the Foundation 100% of all donations received from the local community that are given through April 30 and designated for use in Poland. Habitat will also publish a list of donors and a grand total of gifts to recognize a local Habitat community coming together for Ukrainian refugees. Those wishing to donate to support the work of the Habitat for Humanity Poland Foundation, can visit donate.habitateco.org to give a secure online gift designated to Poland, mail a gift designated to Poland to 1400 Raff Road SW, Canton, Ohio 44710, or call 330-915-5888 to donate by phone.

"Ukrainian families—primarily women and children—are fleeing their homes in search of shelter and safety while war and devastation break down everything they know," said Lechner. "Our prayer is that people right here in our own community will come together like never before to care for our sisters and brothers in a great time of need. There really is no greater calling."

About Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio: Serving Stark, Carroll, Tuscarawas, Harrison, and Jefferson Counties, Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio is driven by the vision that everyone needs a decent place to live. People 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 purchase the homes with an affordable zero interest 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, Habitat empowers. To learn more, visit habitateco.org. — **END** —

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