

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Habitat for Humanity and Pro Football Hall of Fame team up for community win during Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic celebrations

Canton, Ohio, September 1, 2023 — Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio is gathering nearly 100 volunteers from across the country to construct 15 garden sheds that will accompany 15 new Habitat homes. This event is held in partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame as part of the Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic's Community Day activities and will be held outdoors at Habitat's ministry offices with a 9am kickoff at 1400 Raff Road SW, Canton.

Beth Lechner, CEO of Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio, expressed her enthusiasm for the collaborative endeavor: "In the game of football, every yard gained is a team effort, and the same holds true for building strong communities. Today, as we partner with the Pro Football Hall of Fame, we're not just hammering nails into wood; we're forging long-lasting relationships and building a future where everyone has a decent place to live. This is community teamwork at its best."

Building More than Just Sheds

This Community Day event serves as a platform for people from diverse walks of life to come together in the spirit of unity and service to others. By constructing these garden sheds together, volunteers are highlighting Habitat for Humanity's transformative mission of not merely building houses, but creating lifelong homes that anchor families in affordable, stable environments.

This day of service is also about building a sense of community ownership and collaborative efforts that leave a lasting impact well beyond the walls of sheds and houses. "This is about legacy and housing intertwined," added Lechner. "Our partnership with the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Black College Football Hall of Fame pays tribute not just to the enduring contributions of inspirational Black college athletes, but also to the pivotal role that Historically Black Colleges and Universities play in shaping leaders and community builders. It's a celebration of the long-lasting impact that both stable housing and the legacy of HBCUs can have on a community."

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.

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