



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Home for Christmas: Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio and Massillon City Schools Complete Third New Construction Home While Empowering Future Builders

Canton, Ohio, November 29, 2023 — Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio, in partnership with Massillon City Schools and the junior and senior Construction Trades students at Massillon Washington High School, proudly announces the completion of their third joint construction project. This latest partnership build, a new home at 243 26th Street NW, Massillon, is a shining example of community collaboration and educational empowerment. The public is invited to the home dedication on December 13 from noon to 1pm at the new home.

This project marks a significant milestone for the Gowins family, who will celebrate their first Christmas in the warmth and safety of their new home. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio and working alongside Massillon students, the family has played an integral role in building their future home and will purchase it with an affordable 0% interest mortgage.

Beth Lechner, CEO of Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio, shared her enthusiasm about the project: "Investing in the future of the construction trades is pivotal for our community. By partnering with Massillon City Schools, we're not just building homes; we're nurturing the next generation of skilled tradespeople. This initiative is an investment in our collective future, ensuring the vital skill of building homes is valued and passed on."

Paul Salvino, Superintendent of Massillon City Schools, commented, "This collaboration goes beyond teaching construction skills; it instills a sense of community impact in our students. As they learn to build homes, they gain an understanding of the profound effect of their work on communities and families like the Gowins. This enriching experience extends beyond the classroom, fostering pride and responsibility in our young builders."

The completion of this house, a Christmastime symbol of hope and community effort, was made possible through the generous support of Bob and Jackie Gill, in loving memory of Melissa Shearer. Their unwavering dedication to Habitat for Humanity's mission has been instrumental in both the success of this project and the organization's ongoing work.

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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About the Massillon City School District: The Massillon City School District has been educating students for more than 165 years and strives to provide its students with an outstanding education and opportunities. For more information, visit www.massillonschools.org.

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