



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Privacy Request:** Please do not publish the full address of the home.

**Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio Celebrates Milestone 650<sup>th</sup> Home While Honoring the Legacy of Habitat Pioneer Bill Clarke**

*Habitat for Humanity and Hilscher-Clarke Electric Partner to Build Milestone Home with the Frederick Family*

Canton, Ohio, September 2, 2024 — Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio will mark a significant milestone with the dedication of its 650<sup>th</sup> home on Thursday, September 5, at 11:00 AM. This achievement, representing 36 years of building homes, communities, and hope locally since 1988, will be celebrated with the Frederick family at the newly built home at 909 Prospect Ave SW, Canton, Ohio.


The 650<sup>th</sup> home, built in partnership with Hilscher-Clarke Electric, carries special significance because of the company's deep-rooted connection to Habitat for Humanity. Bill Clarke, late CEO of Hilscher-Clarke and a founding board member of Habitat for Humanity International, was a dear friend of Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity. Clarke played a pivotal role in establishing the global organization while also championing Habitat's mission locally. His efforts have contributed to providing decent, affordable housing to millions of families worldwide, and in the local community.


During their partnership with Habitat, the Frederick family completed educational courses on home maintenance, financial literacy, and personal development before working alongside volunteers from Hilscher-Clarke to build their new home. Following the celebration, they will purchase the home with an affordable 0% interest mortgage, a key part of how Habitat empowers families to achieve long-term strength and stability through homeownership.

"This 650<sup>th</sup> home is not just a milestone—it represents 650 families whose lives have been transformed, 650 stories of hope, and countless children who now have a stable foundation for their future," said Beth Lechner, CEO of Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio. "As we celebrate this accomplishment and continue building to meet the growing need for affordable housing in our community, we are deeply grateful for our friends at Hilscher-Clarke Electric. Their partnership with Habitat continues to light the way toward a brighter future as we build on the empowering legacy of Bill Clarke."

**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](http://habitateco.org).

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