



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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Habitat for Humanity and Project REBUILD Partner to Build Affordable Housing and Work Readiness Skills

*Canton, Ohio, May 29, 2025* — Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio has partnered with Project REBUILD to construct a new affordable home in Canton for Amanda Ortenzi and her daughter, Abigail. This project unites two mission-driven organizations committed to equipping individuals with tools to build stronger futures—through affordable housing, practical education, and meaningful opportunities for personal and community growth.

Project REBUILD engages youth through education, hands-on learning, and work readiness training that fosters personal growth and long-term success. By participating in this Habitat build, students in the program gain real-world experience while helping a local family achieve stable homeownership. “This partnership is a perfect example of what happens when young people are given the chance to build real skills while building something meaningful,” said Joanna James, Executive Director of Project REBUILD. “The members of our YouthBuild Greater Stark County program aren’t just learning construction—they’re seeing how their work changes lives. They’re helping a family achieve the dream of homeownership, and in the process, they’re gaining purpose, pride, and the power to shape their own futures.”

Future homeowner Amanda has worked side by side with volunteers from Project REBUILD throughout the construction process. Her daughter Abigail, a straight-A student and competitive gymnast, was officially adopted earlier this year. For Amanda, this home represents a long-awaited opportunity to provide her daughter with a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home, a milestone made possible through her partnership with Habitat. The family also plans to open their home to children in foster care in the future.

“This build reflects the heart of what both Habitat and Project REBUILD are about: people coming together to create lasting change,” said Beth Lechner, CEO of Habitat for Humanity. “This collaboration with Project REBUILD is helping young people gain meaningful experience and personal growth through service, while ensuring families like Amanda’s achieve lasting stability. It’s a powerful intersection of our missions, where affordable housing and youth development meet to strengthen the community.” Construction is underway at the build site in Canton, and members of the media are invited to schedule a visit during any of the following volunteer workdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.:

Friday, May 30 — Siding  
Friday, June 13 — Drywall  
Friday, June 27 — Paint  
Friday, July 11 — Trim

Like all Habitat homebuyers, Amanda will purchase her home through a 0% interest mortgage. She has completed homebuyer education courses in financial literacy and home maintenance, along with the required sweat equity hours, which include helping to construct homes for other families in the program.

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**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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