



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Match Made in Heaven: Habitat for Humanity, Hope Bridge, and The Christ Foundation Partner to Create a Powerful Pathway to Homeownership

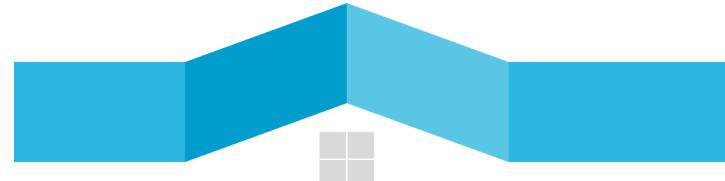
Canton, Ohio, January 24, 2026 — On Saturday, January 31, at 11:00 a.m., Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio will gather with partners and community members to celebrate the completion of a home preservation project by presenting keys to the Tortola family during a special home dedication celebration. The project reflects a transformative partnership between Habitat, Hope Bridge, and The Christ Foundation—three faith-rooted organizations working together to help families move toward lasting stability through affordable homeownership.

For many working families, particularly those headed by single mothers, the journey toward homeownership is shaped by uncertainty and adversity. Catherine Tortola's story reflects that reality. Before partnering with Habitat, Catherine and her children found support during a pivotal season through the single mom's program operated by Hope Bridge. The program works to stabilize single-mother families before crisis occurs, helping prevent child welfare involvement and supporting family preservation efforts that address Ohio's foster care crisis. Hope Bridge insulates single mothers with healthy community, resources, and support, one of which is transitional housing. Through the program, Catherine found space to heal, grow, build savings, and imagine what life could look like beyond immediate need. That foundation made it possible for Catherine to take her next step, a natural transition to Habitat's affordable homeownership program that pairs education, partnership, and an affordable 0% interest mortgage to help families build not just a home, but a future.

"This partnership truly feels like a match made in heaven," said Beth Lechner, CEO of Habitat for Humanity East Central Ohio. "Hope Bridge, The Christ Foundation, and Habitat share a common belief that a safe, affordable home is the foundation for everything that follows. When we work together, each bringing our strengths, we're able to offer families a hand up, bringing their journey full circle toward affordable homeownership and opportunity that lasts for generations."

By encouraging families who are ready to take their next step to apply for Habitat's program, this partnership helps create a clear pathway toward long-term housing stability. "Much like Habitat, our organization is rooted in a faith-driven commitment to see families thrive for generations," said Melanie Montgomery, Director of Programming at Hope Bridge. "When we met Catherine, it was clear she shared this same desire—to faithfully provide for her children and create a home and a future where they could grow, flourish, and know stability. Partnering with Habitat has been a blessing as we see God continue His work in this family's journey."

The home preservation work completed on the Tortola family's home was made possible through generous financial and volunteer support from The Christ Foundation, which partnered with Habitat as an organization that helps restore individuals, strengthen families, and sustain communities. "At its core, this work is about honoring God by investing in people," said Lewis Yoder of The Christ Foundation. "When organizations with shared faith and values come together, we're able to create something exponentially greater than any one of us could alone. This home reflects what's possible when families are given a strong foundation for what comes next."



The Home Dedication Celebration will bring together volunteers, partners, and community members to mark the completion of the project and to recognize the many hands and hearts that made it possible.

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.

About Hope Bridge: Hope Bridge is on a gospel-led mission to mobilize communities across Ohio to support vulnerable children and families by equipping churches and providing safe, supportive housing and resources that help families move forward.

About the Christ Foundation: The Christ Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to expressing Christian faith through acts of charity. Inspired by 1 Peter 4:10, which calls people to use our gifts to serve others, the Foundation strives to create lasting change by funding organizations that assist the least of these. Through the grants given, the mission of The Christ Foundation is to help others discover the gospel and the hope it brings.

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