



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Habitat for Humanity of Marion County Celebrates House Blessing for Feliciano Family

Marion County – Daniel Feliciano and his son David are excited to finally become first time homeowners. The House Blessing ceremony for the Feliciano family will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. The dedication will be taking place at 43 Larch Radial, Ocala, Florida 34480. The Feliciano family will be the 1st family in 2023 to receive the keys to their newly purchased home through Habitat for Humanity of Marion County. This opportunity would not have been possible without the countless donors to Habitat and contributions from many volunteers and supporters who helped build the home. Habitat invites members of our community to show support for the Habitat mission by joining us in celebrating the Feliciano family as they take the final step in becoming new Habitat homeowners.

Daniel can't wait to move into his forever home with his son. When he was asked to describe what he thought his house will feel like when he and his son move in, Daniel shared, "The home itself will look and feel like a BREATHE-OF-RELIEF! My son will find his favorite spots around the house to play or read books. He and I will be sleeping in our separate rooms establishing our own sleeping schedules. It will be peaceful watching him play in the yard freely without yelling every 5 seconds "WATCH OUT FOR CAR!". It will feel SAFE! I would definitely feel 100% safe there with my little man. I would be able to focus more on bonding with and raising my son properly. The whole journey with Habitat has been a BLESSING! There is so much I've learned and can forever take with me."

Like all Habitat homeowners, Daniel was required to complete 250 hours of "sweat equity", as part of the program, but she has gone above and beyond volunteering in our program adding up over [insert number] hours! Daniel was involved in working on the construction of his home as well as the homes of others. He also participated in educational programs designed to strengthen the entire family helping to ensure success as a new homeowner. The Feliciano family will continue to make monthly payments on a low-cost, affordable mortgage, which in turn will go toward building more affordable Habitat homes.

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Dave Layman, President & CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Marion County said, “We are grateful to work with wonderful families like the Feliciano family. We know children of homeowners compared to children of renters are 116% more likely to graduate from college and are 59% more likely to own a home within 10 years of moving from their parent’s home. Homeownership also results in a better quality of life and the equity in the home creates generational wealth, which is why Habitat works so diligently to help families achieve homeownership.”

Habitat for Humanity homes are built using financial gifts to cover the purchase of materials and services of trades and thousands of hours of volunteer time. On average, Habitat for Humanity of Marion County engages over 2100 volunteers annually who contribute nearly 8900 hours of their time to build homes, communities, and hope. Our homes would not be possible without the generous donations from our community and the tireless efforts of our volunteers.

For more information about this build, please contact Tori Arens at 352-351-4663.

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Founded in 1990, Habitat for Humanity of Marion County is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. We envision a world where everyone has a decent place to live and we work towards that vision by building decent, affordable housing in Marion County together with low-income families who are currently living in substandard or overcrowded conditions to give them the strength, stability, and self-reliance to own their own home. To accomplish these goals, we invite the people of our community to build houses together in partnership with families in need of affordable housing. Through volunteer labor and donations of money and materials, Habitat for Humanity of Marion County has built or rehabbed over 250 homes in the local community. Habitat houses are sold to homeowner families financed with mortgages they can afford. For more information visit <https://www.habitatocala.org/>.