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LOCAL COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS HELP HABITAT FOR HUMANITY REPLACE STOLEN TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

ORLANDO, Fla. – Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area was recently a victim of theft. On May 5, nearly \$13,000 worth of tools and equipment were taken from the affiliate's construction trailers. In response, Universal Orlando Foundation, Amway Global, Grainger and Lowe's stepped in to donate both tools and funds, so construction could continue.

The Universal Orlando Foundation provided a grant worth up to \$10,000 to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area. The funds will be used toward replacing the stolen equipment.

Amway Global, a direct-selling company of consumer products, made a \$5,000 donation.

Grainger – a leading supplier of building maintenance, repair and operating products – pledged to contribute equipment worth approximately \$1,500.

Home improvement store Lowe's donated goods worth more than \$3,000. These items included miter saws, drills, combo kits, circular saws, extension cords, palm nailers, and an assortment of hand tools and drill bits.

"We made this donation because our store has a personal connection to Habitat in Orlando," said Candace Hartley, store manager at the West Colonial Lowe's (Store #642). "We took it personally when such an admirable organization was hit by such a devastating act."

"Habitat provides a much-needed service to our community and we are proud to partner with them," added Diane Young, executive director of the Universal Orlando Foundation. "When we heard about the theft, we knew we wanted to help. It was the right thing to do."

The theft occurred as Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area was in the midst of National Women Build Week (May 2–7). In order to finish the week’s construction, immediate donations were necessary.

“We are so thankful for the companies that provided us with donations,” said Terry Eckert, director of construction for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area. “Without their prompt response, we would not have been able to finish the Women Build Week project.”

Sandy Spielmaker, vice president of sales for Amway North America, added: "Amway is happy to lend a hand in this unfortunate situation – many of our independent business owners around the country support Habitat's efforts. We are glad to help Orlando's operations get back up and running."

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area is a not-for-profit, ecumenical, Christian organization dedicated to transforming the lives of low-income, hard-working families through the American dream of home ownership. Rated a four-star charity by Charity Navigator, Habitat Orlando works together with local sponsors, donors and volunteers to build communities and build families throughout Central Florida. To learn more about Habitat Orlando or to make a donation, call (407) 648-4567 or visit www.habitat-orlando.org.

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