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Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando to open homeownership program on May 1, 2017

Orlando, FL (April 24, 2017) – [Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando](http://HabitatforHumanityofGreaterOrlando.org) will begin accepting pre-qualification forms for its homeownership program from May 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017. Completing a pre-qualification form is the first step towards applying for homeownership. In August 2016, Habitat Greater Orlando opened its homeownership program for 30 days and received over 1,700 pre-qualification forms.

“There is a great need for affordable housing in our community and Habitat Greater Orlando provides a hand up, not a hand out. Our affordable-housing shortage is so severe that the National Low Income Housing Coalition recently found just 18 rental units available for every 100 low-income families — one of the lowest rates in America. We all deserve to feel strength and stability day after day and have the means to build brighter futures,” shared Catherine Steck McManus, President and CEO of Habitat Greater Orlando.

To apply for homeownership through Habitat Greater Orlando, there must be a need for housing, ability to pay a mortgage, have a willingness to partner, and must be a resident or work in Orlando/Orange County for the past year. More information and income requirements can be found online at habitat-orlando.org/apply.

Partnering with Habitat Greater Orlando consists of completing homebuyer preparedness classes and contributing 200-400 hours of “sweat equity.” Through volunteering on the construction sites, assisting at the [Orlando ReStores](http://OrlandoReStores.org) or at the main office, sweat equity hours can be completed in a variety of engaging ways.

“Going through the homeownership program with Habitat Greater Orlando has provided me with the necessary tools to own my first home and I’ve become invested in the community. I still volunteer to help build Habitat homes and enjoy getting to meet my future neighbors!” shared Raquel, Habitat Greater Orlando homeowner who purchased her home in 2016.

Habitat Greater Orlando is currently building in the organization’s second planned community, Butler’s Preserve, which will feature 59 homes upon completion later this fall. In March 2017, Habitat Greater Orlando broke ground on Arbor Bend in South Apopka, which will feature 34 homes upon completion in 2019. Over the past 30 years, more than 300 affordable homes have been built in the Orlando area.

Beginning May 1, 2017, pre-qualification forms will be available to be completed online at the Habitat Greater Orlando website or picked up at the main office located at 4116 Silver Star Road, Orlando, FL 32808. For more information, visit habitat-orlando.org/apply or call 407-648-4567 ext. 225.

About Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando

Habitat Greater Orlando partners with people in the community to build or improve homes. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers, and pay an affordable mortgage. The program assists Habitat homeowners to achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life for themselves and for their families.

Habitat Greater Orlando is one of approximately 2,100 affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International. Support from sponsors, donors and volunteers directly benefit the Central Florida community. To learn more about Habitat Greater Orlando or to make a donation, call 407-648-4567 or visit www.habitatorlando.org. Like Habitat Greater Orlando on Facebook www.facebook.com/habitatorlando and follow on Twitter [@HabitatOrlando](https://twitter.com/HabitatOrlando).

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