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**ORLANDO RESIDENTS HUNGRY FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
*Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area Responds to Increased Need*

**ORLANDO, Fla.** (July 21, 2014) – As Orlando’s housing market continues to recover, more residents are placing importance on homeownership. For [Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando Area](#), this means a shifting demographic of interested applicants.

The common misconception is that all Habitat for Humanity homeowners are single-parent families. However, in recent years, the applicant pool has become increasingly diverse. The Hispanic population now makes up 24 percent of prospective homeowners (up from 8 percent just four years ago) – and Habitat continues to see more interest from single individuals, two-parent households, retirees and persons with disabilities.

“Our orientation classes currently average 100-300 attendees – up 40 percent from last year,” said Diane DiFebbo, board chair of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando and principal at CliftonLarsonAllen. “The pent-up-demand reflects the state of the housing industry and how financial pressures – like increasing rent prices – are driving people to rethink their living conditions.”

According to a recent report by ALN Apartment Data Inc., monthly rent in Orlando increased 4.6 percent in June compared to the previous year. Housing prices have climbed nearly 20 percent in that span.

“As the market shifts, we will continue to evolve as an organization,” added DiFebbo. “This year, Habitat of Greater Orlando has already rehabbed 9 homes, and plans are in place to build and renovate 5 more by the end of the year. Whether we’re building one home or a community, our number one priority is to make affordable housing accessible to as many qualified candidates as possible.”

Habitat of Greater Orlando recently broke ground on its second Central Florida community in Washington Shores that will feature 51 single-family homes and four duplex units. Butler’s Preserve – named in honor of former City Commissioner Mable Butler – is slated for completion in 2018. Habitat’s first multifamily community Stag Horn Villas, opened last year in Pine Hills and includes 59 townhomes.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Greater Orlando, visit [www.habitat-orlando.org](http://www.habitat-orlando.org).

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**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, hardworking families through the American Dream of homeownership. Habitat Orlando is one of approximately 1,500 local affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International. Support from sponsors, donors and volunteers directly benefits the Central Florida*

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