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Professional builders team up with Habitat for Humanity of Omaha to build seven new homes at a critical time

Omaha, NE (August 14, 2020) – Nine professional builders are stepping up to lend critical support to Habitat for Humanity of Omaha through a new initiative – *Pro Build*. The builders are helping with the construction of seven new Habitat Omaha homes. **Pro Build partners are at work on one house now and will begin construction on two more homes—one in Bellevue and one in North Omaha—on Monday, Aug. 17.** All seven houses are set to be complete by mid-November. Each home will then be purchased by a local family through an affordable mortgage.

For 12 years, Habitat Omaha partnered with the building community to hold *Home Builders Blitz*, an annual week-long event that brought together hundreds of individuals to transform neighborhood blocks in a matter of days. This year, the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 have made this type of event unsafe and impractical – even as the need for stable access to quality, affordable homes has grown.

“Right now, we seeing just how important home is for all of us. Without stable access to quality, affordable homes, families struggle to shelter or recovery from COVID-19, they have trouble finding adequate space for their children to play and study, and their health can decline as they spend more time in inadequate conditions,” said Drew Lier, Habitat Omaha’s Director of Construction.

In an effort to address this need while prioritizing safety, increasing efficiencies, and accommodating the schedules of their partners, Habitat Omaha is shifting away from a week-long “blitz” and transitioning to a more flexible and customizable program.

The nonprofit’s 2020 Pro Build builder partners are: **AOI, Callaway Homes, C2 Building Company, Lund-Ross Constructors, McLeay Building Company, MCL Construction, Snider Construction Company, Turner Construction Company, and Vantage Design & Construction.**

These partners are helping to fill in the gap left by necessary volunteer restrictions. Before the pandemic, Habitat Omaha expected to fill 14,500 volunteer opportunities in 2020. Now, the organization believes that number will remain below 3,000.

“We feel honored to be able to support Habitat Omaha’s work again in 2020,” said Rob Chapman, Turner Construction Company’s Project Superintendent – Papillion Data Center and 2020 Pro Build Co-Chair. “We’ve known that our time was put to good use during Home Builders Blitz, but this year it



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feels even more impactful. To know we are helping to build a house that will soon be that safe space for a family during these uncertain times really hits home with all of our employees.”

The seven Pro Build homes are also supported financially by American National Bank, Gilbert M. and Martha H. Hitchcock Foundation, Kiewit, Lincoln Financial Foundation, Metropolitan Utilities District, Moglia Family Foundation, and Pella Windows and Doors of Omaha.

Learn more about Pro Build and meet the future homeowners at habitatomaha.org/probuild.

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About Habitat for Humanity of Omaha

Habitat for Humanity of Omaha is a grassroots organization that builds and renovates houses, forges community partnerships and breaks down barriers. We help to grow and maintain the quality, affordable housing stock in Burt County, Omaha, Sarpy County, Washington County and Waterloo while increasing access to homeownership opportunities throughout the area. Habitat Omaha homebuyers complete up to 350 hours of sweat equity before purchasing their homes through 20- to 30-year affordable mortgages. Since 1984, Habitat Omaha has partnered with more than 1,800 families and individuals; this year we will impact the lives of more than 200 families in the Omaha metro area. In 2020, Habitat Omaha will build or renovate 42 homes. Additionally, we will complete more than 150 home repair or improvement projects, expanding our impact through critical repairs and services for veterans, people with disabilities and the elderly. For more information, visit habitatomaha.org.