



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Greater Matthews Habitat for Humanity hosted their first Virtual Dedication for their 113th affordable home on Saturday.

MATTHEWS, N.C. (July 13, 2020) – On Saturday, July 11th, Greater Matthews Habitat for Humanity (GMHFH) hosted their first-ever Virtual Home Dedication celebrating the hard work and dedication of their 113th partner family. This was also their first 2-story home. Members of the community, including sponsors, donors and social media followers tuned in to Facebook Live to celebrate and congratulate the family.

Macky and his family have been patiently waiting a long time for this home. He even worried that with everything going on in the world right now, it still wouldn't happen. He said, "I've been coming here every Saturday, during this pandemic time, watching this house, and I say to myself, 'God, I am not going to die, I am going to live in this house'".

COVID-19 brought forth many unique challenges in the construction of this home – even forcing them to temporarily halt construction. It also shined light on the difficulties many families in our community, and around the country, must face in regards to access to affordable housing. GMHFH President & CEO, Natisha Rivera-Patrick, shared some of the difficulties during the ceremony. "When COVID-19 hit we were all told to shelter in place. That's impossible when you don't have adequate shelter. This pandemic has elevated the inequities that exist in our society. The time for action is now. Let's work to make shelter a priority and bring more families home."

While GMHFH was not able to have everyone physically together for the dedication due to COVID-19 restrictions, they tried to overcome that barrier by using technology to bring together all those who generously shared their time and their talents to bring Macky, Yvette, and their 3 children home.

This home was dedicated to the memory of longtime GMHFH volunteer and supporter, Walter Donham, who passed away last fall, after being involved with the organization for almost 30 years. You can find a recording of the Virtual Dedication on their Facebook page at @habitatmatthews. You can also view a video tour of the inside of the home.

GMHFH will begin construction on their next home in August 2020. This will be their Sandy Marano Memorial Women Build, which will be built in memory of former Matthews resident, Sandy Marano, who lost her battle with breast cancer in October of 2016. In addition to serving as the Family Services Coordinator of GMHFH for many years, Sandy was also a prominent and active member of the Matthews community.

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About Greater Matthews Habitat for Humanity

Since 1989, Greater Matthews Habitat for Humanity has addressed the lack of affordable housing in our area by providing decent homes with an affordable mortgage to help lower-income families obtain self-sufficiency and break the cycle of poverty. Habitat partner families help build their home alongside volunteers and make regular mortgage payments. Through financial support, volunteering or adding a voice to support affordable housing, you can help families achieve the strength, stability and self-reliance that they need to build better lives for themselves. Through shelter, we empower. To learn more, please visit www.greatermatthewshabitat.org.

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