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Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity joins hundreds of housing affordability advocates to rally on Capitol Hill

Colorado Springs, Colorado, February 14, 2020 - One in six families in the United States spend more than half their income every month on housing. For many, the tradeoff of covering the cost for a safe place to live means sacrificing other basic needs, like food, health care, and transportation.

On February 12, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity joined hundreds of other local Habitat organizations, volunteers, partners and low-income families in Washington, D.C. and around the country to speak up about how unacceptable it is for people to have to make those kinds of choices.

Through Cost of Home - Habitat's national advocacy campaign - Habitat is expanding efforts to influence policy and systems change at the local, state and federal level in four key areas: supply and preservation of affordable homes; equitable access to credit; land use; and communities of opportunity. The organization aims to improve home affordability for 10 million individuals through advocacy over the five-year campaign.

On Wednesday, Habitat leaders rallied on Capitol Hill and met with federal policymakers to advocate for the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act (NHIA), a policy priority of the Cost of Home campaign. This important legislation will revitalize distressed neighborhoods by using federal income tax credits to incentivize private investment to build and substantially rehabilitate homes for low- and moderate-income homeowners.

Representatives from Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity and Habitat for Humanity Colorado met with staff from Representative Lamborn's and Senator Bennet's offices to discuss continued funding of Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) and Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). HOME funds are used by Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity to sponsor the construction of new homes. CNCS funds allow Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity to participate in the AmeriCorps program. Both HOME and CNCS are excellent examples of public-private partnership and the leveraging of funding sourcing.

Last month, Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) celebrated the dedication of two new duplexes for four single-mother families. The construction of the duplexes by PPFH was made possible with \$400,000 HOME funds (HOME Investment Partnerships Program) from The City of Colorado Springs' Community Development Division to provide permanent, affordable homeownership for families living in El Paso County. This year, Habitat is asking the US Congress to approve HOME funding at \$1.5 billion.

Habitat on the Hill 2020:

We've only just begun

Habitat for Humanity International's
annual legislative conference

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In 2020 Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity will host two AmeriCorp Vistas through the CNCS program. The cost of the Vistas' program participation is split between CNCS and Habitat. This makes for a cost-effective staff resource for Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity. Habitat is requesting that Congress approve funding for CNCS at \$1.2 billion.

Finding affordable housing has long been an issue for low-income families in our country, but as incomes have remained flat and home prices have surged, even middle-class workers like teachers and police officers - and their children - are unable to find housing that fits within their budgets.

"We are calling on lawmakers and candidates at all levels of government to prioritize housing and budget solutions that support efforts to build and maintain affordable housing," said Chris Vincent, Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy for Habitat for Humanity International. "Supporting and implementing legislation like the Neighborhood Home Investment Act is a critical step toward making the #CostOfHome something we all can afford."

The Home Depot Foundation is the premier sponsor of Habitat on the Hill 2020. Since 2011, the Foundation has donated over \$22 million to Habitat for Humanity International, including this year's contribution of over \$3 million, to help build, repair or rehabilitate more than 1,300 homes in partnership with U.S. military veterans and their families through Habitat's Repair Corps. The Home Depot Foundation is also committed to supporting communities impacted by natural disaster and donates to Habitat's disaster response, sustainable building practices and other initiatives to further Habitat's mission of a world where everyone has a decent and affordable place to live.

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About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity builds affordable housing in El Paso County in partnership with the community and prospective homeowners. Partner families build their home alongside volunteers, and purchase their house with an affordable mortgage. Pikes Peak Habitat has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1986 and has assisted 174 families achieve homeownership in El Paso County. For more information, visit www.pikespeakhabitat.org.

About the Home Depot Foundation

[The Home Depot Foundation](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org) works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap and support communities impacted by natural disasters. Since 2011, the Foundation has invested more than \$330 million in veteran causes and improved more than 46,000 veteran homes and facilities in 4,500 cities. The Foundation has pledged to invest half of a billion dollars in veteran causes by 2025.

To learn more about [The Home Depot Foundation](http://www.homedepotfoundation.org) visit HomeDepotFoundation.org and follow us on [@Twitter](https://twitter.com/HomeDepotFound) @HomeDepotFound and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HomeDepotFound) + [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/HomeDepotFound) @HomeDepotFoundation.

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