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Media Release

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Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity Achieves Lifetime Milestone Award in Global Tithing to Support Habitat's Mission Worldwide

Colorado Springs, CO (March 30, 2021) – Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) awarded Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) the Sam Mompongo Award for tithing over \$1,000,000 to Habitat's worldwide efforts to sustain families by building safe and affordable housing. Funds for the tithe are derived from 10% of undesignated donations to PPHFH, including ReStore net income.

A virtual presentation of the award was made on February 26, 2021 by Jonathan Reckford, HFHI CEO; and Susan Yow, Director of Affiliate Tithe and Global Engagement. This award celebrates PPHFH's total tithe of \$1,023,491 that has served 250 families in various countries since PPHFH's founding in 1986. Currently, PPHFH supports projects in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast); Nepal; Orphans and Vulnerable Groups; and the Disaster Response Fund. More details about [PPHFH's global impact can be found here](#).

Other Habitat affiliates that also received this award include Austin Habitat for Humanity, Fort Worth Area Habitat for Humanity, Greater Birmingham Habitat for Humanity, Greater Fox Cities Area Habitat for Humanity, Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley, and Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat CEO Jonathan Reckford shared, "I am so moved by the collective generosity of the Habitat family. The tithe, it's one of the hallmarks of Habitat and provides for a continuous cycle of generosity. By sharing our blessings and extending our arms wider, we help more families build the foundation for a better future."

In response to the award, PPHFH Executive Director/CEO Kris Lewis Medina said, "The Pikes Peak team is so excited about this award, and we're looking forward to putting it front and center in our brand new ReStore!" *(A new ReStore is under construction and a grand opening is schedule for early summer. [More details can be found here.](#))*

Habitat's tithe program supports carefully chosen building and shelter projects that provide housing in the world's poorest places. Tithe funds allow families to stand on their own and build stronger, more stable communities. Habitat affiliates that want to support or partner with international development programs channel undesignated funds to their country of choice through the U.S. Habitat for Humanity International Tithe department. Local volunteers serve on PPHFH's tithe committee to determine which countries and programs to support. Tithe is one of the most effective ways U.S Habitat affiliates can support the Habitat ministry overseas.

This particular tithe award is named for Sam Mompongo, an educator and leader in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo). When Habitat founders Millard and Linda Fuller revisited Zaire in 1979

after first applying the “partnership housing” concept there in 1973, the tithe cycle began. At a home dedication ceremony, Mompongo, with the Fullers’ blessing, had expanded the model of enlisting volunteers to help families build houses in his own village, took up a collection and presented Millard Fuller with half of it: US\$200. Fuller used the money to help start a new Habitat affiliate in Aguacatan, Guatemala. From that \$200 donation, the entire Habitat tithe program grew.

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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. PPHFH has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1986 and has assisted 191 families in El Paso County. This year marks the 35th anniversary for PPHFH. For more information, visit www.pikespeakhabitat.org.