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Media Release

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**MacKenzie Scott's generous \$436 million donation to Habitat for Humanity
and what it means for the Pikes Peak region**

Colorado Springs, CO (March 24, 2022) – This week Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) announced a generous donation from MacKenzie Scott to benefit Habitat and 84 Habitat affiliates across the U.S. HFHI received \$25 million from Scott, and the remaining \$411 million is shared among Habitat affiliates. Two affiliates in Colorado that were selected for this gift are Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver, receiving \$13.5 million, and Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley (their office is in Longmont, Colorado), receiving \$3.5 million.

“This is extraordinary news for our Colorado Habitat affiliates,” said Kris Lewis, Executive Director and CEO of Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH), “and we celebrate with them, knowing that this is much-needed transformational support that will greatly enhance their ability to increase the supply of affordable housing and expand the opportunity for homeownership in their communities.” PPHFH Director of Strategic Partnerships Iain Probert added, “We are very appreciative of the significant gift to HFHI which will undoubtedly help set, nationally, affordable and equitable housing policy and supply on a positive trajectory for many years to come.”

In the Pikes Peak region, however, the availability of decent, permanent, affordable housing for deserving applicants, many of whom are essential workers, schoolteachers, and veterans, is still lacking, and donations are still very much sought. Probert continued, “In particular, PPHFH is in need of land, and the resources to acquire it, to build more homes. Only then as the leading builder of affordable housing can PPHFH begin to stem the dearth of decent, permanent, and safe housing that is so very desperately needed by residents of Colorado’s most populous county.”

Emphasizing the demand for affordable housing in El Paso County, Lewis said, “PPHFH continues to need support via volunteering, funding, shopping at the local ReStores, donating items [to the stores], offering prayers, and particularly land that can be developed affordably. We are so grateful to those who are helping us build sustainable affordable homes and serve more families.” She added that PPHFH construction costs this past year averaged \$240,000 per house, with the expectation of costs this coming year to hit \$300,000 per home.

PPHFH is currently building new houses in its 30-lot neighborhood “The Ridge at Sand Creek” near Galley Rd and Babcock Rd in Colorado Springs. Those who wish to support Habitat projects locally can visit PPHFH’s website at pikespeakhabitat.org to learn how to make donations.

As one of 25 Habitat affiliates across Colorado (including the state support organization Habitat for Humanity of Colorado), PPHFH serves all of El Paso County. In the U.S. there are 1,109 Habitat affiliates (as of 3/17/22),

helping build, rehab, and repair affordable housing in local communities across all 50 states. These affiliates are independent local non-profit organizations that act in furtherance of the Habitat mission, and each affiliate coordinates all aspects of Habitat home building in its local area.

About Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity

Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity (PPHFH) builds strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in El Paso County. We build permanent, affordable homes in partnership with the community and prospective homebuyers. Partner families purchase their homes with affordable mortgages. PPHFH has been an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International since 1986 and has assisted 201 families in El Paso County. In addition to new construction, PPHFH also offers repairs for homeowners who are seniors (65 and older), veterans, and cost-burdened families. For more information, visit www.pikespeakhabitat.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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